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PEI Atlantic Shrimp Corp. Inc.  
**Harvester Sector  
Projects Summary** 2000 - 2011

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The following projects from the harvesting sector have been funded by the PEI Atlantic Shrimp Corp Inc.:

1. Fishing Master Class IV Course
2. Train the Trainer Programs
3. Marine Emergency Duties Training - Phase I
4. Professionalization Awareness Project
5. Professionalization Steering Committee Expenses
6. Marine Emergency Duties Training - Phase II
7. Professionalization Awareness Project II
8. Starfish Trap Construction Predator Control and Monitoring Project
9. Professionalization and Human Resources Development Strategy
10. Fishing Master Class IV Course
11. Marine Emergency Duties Training - Phase III
12. Professionalization Interim Board of Directors
13. Basic Lobster Science Training Program
14. Standard First Aid and Instructor Training
15. Joint Bluefin Tagging Project
16. Marine Emergency Duties - MED-A1
17. Professionalization Support Program
18. Fishing Master Class IV Course - Phase II
19. Marine Emergency Duties - A4
20. Professionalization Technical Support Project
21. Regional Workshops
22. Professionalization Interim Board of Directors - Phase II
23. Marine Emergency Duties Training A-1
24. Oyster Production and Health Monitoring
25. Industry Communication for Validation
26. PEI Aquaculture Industry MED Safety Training
27. Interim Office Support Project
28. Ultrasonic Tagging of Lobster to Quantify Seasonal Migratory Movements between LFAs 24 and 25 - Western Northumberland Strait
29. Halibut Trap Design and Testing **cancelled**
30. Interactions between rock crab (*Cancer irroratus*) populations and mussel aquaculture
31. PEI Shellfish Industry Occupational Health and Safety Codes of Practice
32. Radio Operator Course - Maritime Commercial Training
33. Study on the Impact of Bar Clam Harvesting on Lobster Habitat
34. HFA 16G Acoustic Sounding and Herring Test Fishery

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35. HFA 16 C/E Herring Acoustic Sounding and Test Fishery
36. Strait Talk: Public Consultations on the State of the Marine Environment and Fisheries of the Northumberland Strait
37. Atlantic Canada Aquaculture Industry Research and Development Network
38. Study on the impact of scallop harvesting activities on coastal habitats and associated species
39. Innovative Scallop Culture Gear Development Project - **ACTIVE**
40. Restructuring of the PEI Fishermen's Association Ltd.
41. Financial Assistance to Attend the 2006 ICCAT Meeting
42. Marine Emergency Duties - A1 Training
43. Website Development - PEI Fisherman's Association
44. Development of Techniques and Mitigation Strategies for the Management of Invasive Tunicate Species Fouling Aquaculture Farms - **Module I - Development of an Effective Tunicate Diagnosis Method for Commercialization.**
45. Investigation into Control Strategies for Invasive Species - The Oyster Drill, the Violet Tunicate, the Clubbed Tunicate and the Vase Tunicate - On Oyster aquaculture operations.
46. Development of Techniques and Mitigation Strategies for the Management of Invasive Tunicate Species Fouling Aquaculture Farms - **Module II - Discovery and Development of an Environmentally Sound and Sustainable Anti-fouling compound. ACTIVE**
47. Development of Techniques and Mitigation Strategies for the Management of Invasive Tunicate Species Fouling Aquaculture Farms - **Module III- Development of Tunicate Treatment Technologies for Direct Application. ACTIVE**
48. Policy for Commercial Aquaculture Diving in PEI.
49. Development of Expanded Training Initiative for PEI Fishers
50. Support Funding to Hire a Fisheries Research & Liason Officer for the PEI Fishermen's Association.
51. Restructuring of the PEI Fishermen's Association Ltd - Phase II - Implementation.
52. WHMIS Training for the PEI Aquaculture Industry.
53. Pre-Assessment of the Prince Edward Island Lobster Fishery for Marine Stewardship Council Certification.
54. PEI Shellfish Reorganization Project.
55. Blue Fin Tuna Fishers Workshop.
56. Fisheries Skills PEI - 2008 Training Project.
57. Support for a Research and Development Co-ordinator for the PEI Aquaculture Alliance.
58. Investigation of Trapping as a Population Control Strategy for two nuisance species on Oyster Aquaculture Operations.
59. Reproduction, environmental tolerances and recruitment related to tunicate population abundance. **ACTIVE**
60. Herring Fishing Area E/G Acoustic Sounding and Test Fishery Project for 2008.

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61. An Investigation of Low Impact and Natural Treatment Options for Mitigating the Impact of Tunicate Infestation on Mussel Aquaculture Farms.
62. Silverside/Pinfish Sorting Machine
63. Fisheries Skills PEI 2008/2009 Training Project
64. Support Funding to Attend 2008 ICCAT Conference
65. The Impact of the Green Crab on Bedeque Bay and North River Oyster Beds: Population Size and Risk Assessment
66. Validation of Oyster Seed Relay as a Tool for Enhancement of Public Oyster Beds on PEI **ACTIVE**
67. Frozen Storage Facility Concept for Consideration
68. Project Funding PEI Shellfish Association Executive Director **ACTIVE**
69. Developing a Strategy and Business Plan for the PEI Aquaculture Alliance (PEIAA)
70. Fishing Master IV Home Delivery Project **ACTIVE**
71. PEI Aquaculture Alliance Communications Plan
72. Atlantic Canada Aquaculture Industry Research and Development Network (ACAIRDN) 2009-2010
73. Marine First Aid Training for the PEI Aquaculture Industry **ACTIVE**
74. PEIFA License Rationalization Process
75. Update and Revise the PEI Shellfish Aquaculture Environmental Codes of Practice (SAECOP)
76. International Conference on Shellfish Restoration
77. 2009 Herring Fishing Area 16 E&G Acoustic Sounding and Variable Mesh Gillnet Project
78. Fisheries Skills PEI 2009/2010 Training Project **ACTIVE**
79. Support Funding to Attend 2009 ICCAT Conference
80. Development of Aquaculture Management Plans for PEI Aquaculture Areas **ACTIVE**
81. Atlantic Canada Aquaculture Industry Research & Development Network (ACAIRDN) **ACTIVE**
82. Bluefin Tuna Catch and Release Trial Fishery **ACTIVE**
83. 2010 Herring Fishing Area 16 C, E and G Acoustic Sounding and Variable Mesh Gillnet Herring Project **ACTIVE**
84. Support Funding to Attend 2010 ICCAT Conference **ACTIVE**

Updated on January 25, 2011

**1. Fishing Master Class IV Course**

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**Proponent:** PEI Fishermen's Association

**Project Number:** 00-HAR-01

**Project Status:** Complete

**Project Start/Completion Date:** 22 January 2001 - 23 March 2001

**Project Objective:**

To provide commercial fishery vessel captains with an opportunity to attend Holland College Marine Centre and obtain the qualification of Fishery Master Class IV. Transport Canada regulations require all vessel captains carrying passengers (charters) to be qualified as Fishing Master Class IV.

**Summary of Outcome:**

33 vessel captains successfully completed the Fishing Master Class IV course conducted by Holland College Marine Centre.

**Total Project Cost:** \$82,200.00

**Funding provided by PEI ASCI:** \$19,500.00

**Other Funding Partners:** HRDC - LMDA -Skills Investment - \$ 50,160.00  
Course Participants - \$ 12,540.00

**Project Contact:** Ruth Inniss - Coordinator, PEI Council of Professional Fish Harvesters  
Tel:(902) 894-3901

## 2. Train the Trainer

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**Proponent:** PEI Council of Professional Fish Harvesters

**Project Number:** 00-HAR-02

**Project Status:** Complete

**Project Start/Completion Date:** 19 February 2001 - 31 December 2001

**Project Objective:**

To train participants involved with the fish harvesting industry to promote the "Professionalization of Fishers" to the fish harvesting industry.

**Summary of Outcome:**

14 participants completed the "Train the Trainer" courses and will be utilized by the PEICPFH to assist in the promotion of the "Professionalization of Fishers" to fish harvesters on Prince Edward Island.

**Total Project Cost:** \$41,649.42

**Funding provided by PEIASCI:** \$41,649.42

**Project Contact:** Ruth Inniss - Coordinator, PEI Council of Professional Fish Harvesters  
Tel: (902) 894-3901

### 3. **Marine Emergency Duties - Phase I**

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**Proponent:** PEI Council of Professional Fish Harvesters

**Project Number:** 00-HAR-03

**Project Status:** Complete

**Project Start/Completion Date:** November 2000 - March 2001

**Project Objective:**

To train commercial harvesters and small vessel owners and qualify them in Marine Emergency Duties Basic Safety course (MED-A1) as required by Transport Canada regulation.

**Summary of Outcome:**

12 courses were conducted by Holland College Marine Center with a total of 441 participants qualifying during the period January - March 2001.

**Total Project Cost:** \$110,478.74

**Funding provided by PEI ASCI:** \$42,497.74

**Other Funding Partners:** HRDC - \$36,691.00  
Participants - \$31,290.00

**Project Contact:** Ruth Inniss - Coordinator, PEI Council of Professional Fish Harvesters  
Tel:(902) 894-3901

#### **4. Professionalization Awareness Project**

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**Proponent:** PEI Council of Professional Fish Harvesters

**Project Number:** 00-HAR-04

**Project Status:** Complete

**Project Start/Completion Date:** 19 October 2000 - 31 March 2001

**Project Objective:**

To contract the consulting firm of Options Inc., Beach Point, PEI to conduct a focus group with 20 PEI fish harvesters, selected at random, to determine the strengths and weaknesses of a professionalization program for fish harvesters on PEI.

**Summary of Outcome:**

The information gained from the focus group was utilized to develop the plan to communicate the concept of professionalization to all fish harvesters on PEI. The concept was presented to PEI fish harvesters at 12 public meetings held throughout PEI during the period December 2000 - March 2001.

**Total Project Cost:** \$8,526.41

**Funding provided by PEIASCI:** \$8,526.41

**Project Contact:** Ruth Inniss - Coordinator, PEI Council of Professional Fish Harvesters  
Tel: (902) 894-3901

## **5. Professionalization Steering Committee Expenses**

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**Proponent:** PEI Council of Professional Fish Harvesters

**Project Number:** 00-HAR-07

**Project Status:** Complete

**Project Start/Completion Date:** 19 October 2000 - 31 March 2001

### **Project Objective:**

To provide financial compensation for the cost of travel expenses for members of the Professionalization Steering Committee to attend meetings and training whilst promoting the initiative of Professionalization.

### **Summary of Outcome:**

The financial support provided by the PEI Atlantic Shrimp Corp. Inc., was essential to allow steering committee members to attend meetings and training sessions necessary in the promotion of Professionalization in the fishing industry to PEI Fish Harvesters.

**Total Project Cost:** \$2,063.25

**Funding provided by PEIASCI:** \$2,063.25

**Project Contact:** Ruth Inniss - Coordinator, PEI Council of Professional Fish Harvesters  
Tel: (902) 894-3901



**6. Marine Emergency Duties Training - Phase II**

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**Proponent:** PEI Council of Professional Fish Harvesters

**Project Number:** 01-HAR-03

**Project Status:** Complete

**Project Start/Completion Date:** 1 April 2001 - 31 March 2002

**Project Objective:**

To qualify commercial fish harvesters in Marine Emergency Duties Basic Safety course (MED-A1) as required by Transport Canada regulation.

**Summary of Outcome:**

40 courses were conducted by Holland College Marine Center during the period of 1 April 2001 - 31 March 2002 with 1,430 participants successfully completing the Marine Emergency Basic Safety course - MED-A1.

**Total Project Cost:** \$328,756.90

**Funding provided by PEIASCI:** \$128,556.90

**Other Funding Partners:** HRDC - \$100,100  
Participants - \$100,100

**Project Contact:** Ruth Inniss - Coordinator, PEI Council of Professional Fish Harvesters  
Tel: (902) 836-4192

## **7. Professionalization Awareness Project - II**

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**Proponent:** PEI Council of Professional Fish Harvesters

**Project Number:** 01-HAR-04-II

**Project Status:** Complete

**Project Start/Completion Date:** 01 April 2000 - 30 June 2001

### **Project Objective:**

The development of funding proposals and partnerships for the implementation of the professionalization plan agreed upon at the professionalization conference held in Charlottetown, PEI, pm 23/24 March 2001.

### **Summary of Outcome:**

A funding proposal was developed and forwarded to HRDC. Funding was approved through the Federal/Provincial Labour Market Development Board. This project commenced 23 July 2003.

**Total Project Cost:** \$13,869.76

**Funding provided by PEIASCI:** \$13,869.76

**Project Contact:** Ruth Inniss - Coordinator, PEI Council of Professional Fish Harvesters  
Tel: (902) 894-3901

## **8. Starfish Trap Construction Predator Control and Monitoring Project**

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**Proponent:** PEI Shellfish Association

**Project Number:** 01-HAR-08

**Project Status:** Complete

**Project Start/Completion Date:** 06 May 2001 - 30 November 2001

### **Project Objective:**

To design and test starfish control methods as a means of protecting broodstock and small spat on collectors.

### **Summary of Outcome:**

Traps were constructed using the Whayman-Holdsworth design. Traps were fished daily in Paugh's Creek, Smelt Creek, Bideford River and the east end of the Reserve. Starfish trapped in 2001: Small - 127,628; Medium - 50,577; Large - 31,424. Traps continue to be used.

**Total Project Cost:** \$56,103.30

**Funding provided by PEI ASCI:** \$41,543.30

**Other Funding Partners:** Employment Development Agency - \$14,560.00

**Project Contact:** Susan Milligan or Alvin Broome  
Tel: (902) 831-3374

## **9. Professionalization & Human Resources Strategy**

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**Proponent:** PEI Council of Professionalization Fish Harvesters

**Project Number:** 01-HAR-09

**Project Status:** Complete

**Project Start/Completion Date:** 23 July 2001 - 28 June 2002

### **Project Objective:**

The development of a professionalization program and a human resources development strategy for the Fish Harvesters sector of PEI.

### **Summary of Outcome:**

The information and feedback received from surveys, meetings and consultation with PEI fish harvesters will be beneficial in planning the human resources requirements and training requirements for the future of the fish harvester industry.

**Total Project Cost:** \$55,875.76

**Funding provided by PEIASCI:** \$12,037.76

**Other Funding Partners:** HRDC - \$41,535.00  
CCPFH - \$2,303.00

**Project Contact:** Ruth Inniss - Coordinator, PEI Council of Professional Fish Harvesters  
Tel: (902) 894-3901

## **10. Fishing Master Class IV Course**

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**Proponent:** PEI Fishermen's Association

**Project Number:** 01-HAR-10

**Project Status:** Complete

**Project Start/Completion Date:** 21 January 2002 - 15 March 2002

### **Project Objective:**

To provide commercial fishing vessel captains with an opportunity to attend Holland College Marine Centre and obtain the qualification of Fishing Master Class IV. Transport Canada regulations require all vessel captains carrying passengers (charters) to be qualified as Fishing Master Class IV.

### **Summary of Outcome:**

36 vessel captains successfully completed the Fishing Master Class IV course conducted by Holland College Marine Centre.

**Total Project Cost:** \$89,400.00

**Funding provided by PEIASCI:** \$21,000.00

**Other Funding Partners:** HRDC - LMDA - Skills Investment - \$54,720.00  
Course Participants - \$13,680.00

**Project Contact:** Ruth Inniss - Coordinator, PEI Council of Professional Fish Harvesters  
Tel:(902) 894-3901

## **11. Marine Emergency Duties Phase III**

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**Proponent:** PEI Council of Professional Fish Harvesters

**Project Number:** 02-HAR-03

**Project Status:** Complete

**Project Start/Completion Date:** 1 April 2002 - 28 June 2002

### **Project Objective:**

To qualify commercial fish harvesters in Marine Emergency Duties Basic Safety course (MED-A1) as required by Transport Canada regulation.

### **Summary of Outcome:**

5 courses were conducted by Holland College Marine Center during the period 1 April 2002 - 28 June 2002 with 206 participants successfully completing the Marine Emergency Duties Basic Safety course - MED-A1.

**Total Project Cost:** \$52,299.73

**Funding provided by PEIASCI:** \$23,459.73

**Other Funding Partners:** HRDC- \$14,420.00  
Participants - \$14,420.00

**Project Contact:** Ruth Inniss - Coordinator, PEI Council of Professional Fish Harvesters  
Tel: (902) 836-4192

## **12. Professionalization Interim Board of Directors**

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**Proponent:** PEI Council of Professional Fish Harvesters

**Project Number:** 02-HAR-011

**Project Status:** Complete

**Project Start/Completion Date:** March 11 2002 - 2 June 2003

### **Project Objective:**

Provide financial support to cover the expenses for the Interim Board of Directors to attend meetings, seminars, conventions and training both within PEI and other areas of Canada necessary to promote the professionalization initiative to fish harvesters on PEI.

### **Summary of Outcome:**

Some members of the Interim Board of Directors attended conferences and training in Ottawa, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Newfoundland. The financial support provided has been very helpful to the successful promotion of professionalization to fish harvesters on PEI.

**Total Project Cost:** \$25,913.26

**Funding provided by PEIASCI:** \$25,913.26

**Project Contact:** Ruth Inniss - Coordinator, PEI Council of Professional Fish Harvesters  
Tel: (902) 894-3901

### 13. Basic Lobster Science Training Program

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**Proponent:** Native Council of PEI

**Project Number:** 02-HAR-012

**Project Status:** Complete

**Project Start/Completion Date:** November 21 - 29, 2002

**Project Objective:**

To train a core group of Aboriginal persons involved in the fishery and support positions in basic lobster science. Topics will cover basic lobster biology, developing skills to improve the quality of the lobster product and a general overview of the lobster industry from harvest to processing and marketing.

**Summary of Outcome:**

Eleven (11) participants took part in a seven day training program provided by the Canadian Aquaculture Institute.

**Total Project Cost:** \$16,906.00

**Funding provided by PEIASCI:** \$14,756.00

**Other Funding Partners:** HRDC - \$1,750.00  
Native Council of PEI - \$400.00

**Project Contact:** Jordan Crane, Fisheries Coordinator for the Native Council  
Tel: (902) 892-5314



**14. Standard First Aid and Instructor Training**

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**Proponent:** PEI Council of Professional Fish Harvesters

**Project Number:** 02-HAR-013

**Project Status:** Complete

**Project Start/Completion Date:** 13 January 2003 - November 2004

**Project Objective:**

To provide 12-15 fish harvesters with First Aid Instructor Training.

**Summary of Outcome:**

The PEI Council of Professional Fish Harvesters contracted the Canadian Red Cross to train 13 fish harvesters in First Aid Instructor Training.

**Total Project Cost:** \$24,480.52 (Slippage on project redistributed to 'Unallocated Funds').

**Funding provided by PEIASCI:** \$28,474.00

**Project Contact:** Ruth Inniss - Coordinator, PEI Council of Professional Fish Harvesters  
Tel: (902) 894-3901

## 15. Joint Bluefin Tagging Project

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**Proponent:** PEI Fishermen's Association

**Project Number:** 02-HAR-14

**Project Status:** Complete

**Project Start/Completion Date:** 08 August 2002 - 31 December 2002

### **Project Objective:**

To place three electronic tags on Bluefin Tuna during the 2002 fishing season. The electronic tags will allow DFO scientists to track the migration patterns of the bluefin tuna and the transmission of this data via satellite without the requirement to retrieve the tag.

### **Summary of Outcome:**

The project was only able to place one electronic tag on a bluefin tuna. Clarence (Mickey) Fraser successfully tagged a bluefin tuna on 28 August 2002.

**Total Project Cost:** \$42,277.00

**Funding provided by PEI ASCI:** \$7,277.00

**Other Funding Partners:** **PEI Fishermen's Association** - In-Kind - tuna fishermen vessel time - \$15,000.00; **United Tuna Fishermen of PEI** (In-Kind - tuna fishermen vessel time) - \$15,000.00; **Department of Fisheries & Oceans** (In-Kind - Tuna Tagger) - \$ 5,000.00

**Project Contact:** Ruth Inniss - Coordinator, PEI Council of Professional Fish Harvesters  
Tel:(902) 894-3901

**16. Marine Emergency Duties - MED-A1**

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**Proponent:** PEI Council of Professional Fish Harvesters

**Project Number:** 02-HAR-015

**Project Status:** Complete

**Project Start/Completion Date:** 01 August 2002 - 30 April 2003

**Project Objective:**

To qualify commercial fish harvesters in Marine Emergency Duties Basic Safety course (MED-A1) as required by Transport Canada regulations.

**Summary of Outcome:**

10 courses were conducted by Holland College Marine Centre during the period 01 August 2002 - 30 April 2003. 862 participants successfully completed the Marine Emergency Duties Basic Safety Course - MED-A1.

**Total Project Cost:** \$230,094.65

**Funding provided by PEI ASCI:** \$27,834.65

**Other Funding Partners:** HRDC - \$142,060; Participants - \$60,200.00

**Project Contact:** Ruth Inniss - Coordinator, PEI Council of Professional Fish Harvesters  
Tel: (902) 836-4192

## **17. Professionalization Support Project**

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**Proponent:** Council of Professional Fish Harvesters

**Project Number:** 02-HAR-016

**Project Status:** Complete

**Project Start/Completion Date:** 1 July 2002 - 31 March 2003

### **Project Objective:**

To promote and maintain the professionalization initiative within the fish harvesting industry of PEI and to organize and coordinate the training of PEI Fish Harvesters.

### **Summary of Outcome:**

Developed in consultation with Transport Canada a One Day Marine Emergency Duties course MED-A4 for PEI Shell Fishers. Purchased and conducted First Aid & CPR courses throughout PEI. Purchased and coordinated First Aid Instructor courses for PEI Fish Harvesters, and continued promotion of the concept of professionalization and training to the fishing industry. Development of training requirements for new entry clients into the fish harvesting industry.

**Total Project Cost:** \$80,502.00

**Funding provided by PEIASCI:** \$15,421.00

**Other Funding Partners:** HRDC; PEIFA / PEIGA Shrimp Fund; CCPFH

**Project Contact:** Ruth Inniss - Coordinator, PEI Council of Professional Fish Harvesters  
Tel: (902) 894-3901

**18. Fishing Master Class IV - Phase II**

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**Proponent:** PEI Fishermen's Association

**Project Number:** 02-HAR-017

**Project Status:** Complete

**Project Start/Completion Date:** 13 January 2003 - 14 March 2003

**Project Objective:**

To provide commercial fishery vessel captains with an opportunity to attend Holland College Marine Centre and obtain the qualification of Fishery Master Class IV. Transport Canada regulations require all vessel captains carrying passengers (charters) to be qualified as Fishing Master Class IV.

**Summary of Outcome:**

24 vessel captains successfully completed the Fishing Master Class IV course conducted by Holland College Marine Centre.

**Total Project Cost:** \$62,077.00

**Funding provided by PEI ASCI:** \$14,221.00

**Other Funding Partners:** HRDC - LMDA -Skills Investment - \$43,776.00  
Course Participants - \$4,080.00

**Project Contact:** Ruth Inniss - Coordinator, PEI Council of Professional Fish Harvesters  
Tel: (902) 894-3901

## 19. Marine Emergency Duties Training - MED-A4

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**Proponent:** PEI Council of Professional Fish Harvesters

**Project Number:** 02-HAR-018

**Project Status:** Complete

**Project Start/Completion Date:** 23 December 2002 - November 2004

**Project Objective:**

To train fish harvesters employed in the shellfish industry in Marine Emergency Duties - A4 Training as regulated by Transport Canada.

**Summary of Outcome:**

The PEICPFH contacted Holland College to provide 136 fish harvesters with MED- A4 training, as regulated by Transport Canada.

**Total Project Cost:** \$8,893.10 (Slippage on project redistributed to 'Unallocated Funds').

**Funding provided by PEIASCI:** \$16,200.00

**Project Contact:** Ruth Inniss - Coordinator, PEI Council of Professional Fish Harvesters  
Tel: (902) 894-3901

## **20. Professionalization Technical Support**

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**Proponent:** PEI Council of Professional Fish Harvesters

**Project Number:** 03-HAR-019

**Project Status:** Complete

**Project Start/Completion Date:** 01 April 2003 -February 2004

### **Project Objective:**

To provide technical support to maintain and manage the web-site and data base for the Professionalization of Fish Harvesters.

### **Summary of Outcome:**

The financial support provided by the PEIASC allowed the PEICPFH to hire one person to provide technical support for the management of our website and database for the registration of Island harvesters in regards to courses, and future development and training coordination.

**Total Project Cost:** \$27,520.00

**Funding provided by PEIASC:** \$27,520.00

**Project Contact** Ruth Inniss - Coordinator, PEI Council of Professional Fish Harvesters  
Tel: (902) 894-3901

## 21. Regional Workshops

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**Proponent:** PEI Council of Professional Fish Harvesters

**Project Number:** 03-HAR-020

**Project Status:** Complete

**Project Start/Completion Date:** April 2003 - November 2004

### **Project Objective:**

To consult fish harvesters on PEI prior to the transfer of registration services from the Department of Fisheries & Oceans to the PEICPFH.

### **Summary of Outcome:**

The consulting firm of Smith, Green & Associates was contracted to conduct six regional workshops. Workshops were conducted in seven locations prior to the vote on Professionalization by PEI fish harvesters. Voter turnout was very low in all locations and has not given a true reading on where the industry stands on this issue. The coastal sector has voted to go ahead with professionalization.

**Total Project Cost:** \$10,345.15 (Slippage on project was redistributed to 'Unallocated Funds')

**Funding provided by PEIASCI:** \$11,285.00

**Project Contact:** Ruth Inniss - Coordinator, PEI Council of Professional Fish Harvesters  
Tel: (902) 894-3901



## **22. Professionalization Interim Board of Directors Expenses Phase II**

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**Proponent:** PEI Council of Professional Fish Harvesters

**Project Number:** 03-HAR-021

**Project Status:** Complete

**Project Start/Completion Date:** 12 August 2003 - 14 January 2005

### **Project Objective:**

To acquire funds to compensate the Interim Board of Directors for expenses incurred by them attending meetings and other related functions.

### **Summary of Outcome:**

This project enabled the board members to attend meetings, conferences and training both on PEI and in other areas of Canada, especially around the Southern Gulf of St. Lawrence. Without this support the board members would not have had the opportunity to meet and attend important conferences.

**Total Project Cost:** \$22,525.00

**Funding provided by PEIASCI:** \$22,525.00

**Project Contact:** Ruth Inniss - Coordinator, PEI Council of Professional Fish Harvesters  
Tel: (902) 894-3901

**23. Marine Emergency Duties MED-A1**

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**Proponent:** PEI Council of Professional Fish Harvesters

**Project Number:** 03-HAR-022

**Project Status:** Complete

**Project Start/Completion Date:** August 2003 - April 2004

**Project Objective:**

The PEI Council of Professional Fish Harvesters purchased, coordinated and administered the MED Basic Safety Training Course - A1 to ensure it's availability to all PEI commercial fish harvesters so that they meet Transport Canada regulations.

**Summary of Outcome:**

The MED A-1 training project was completed in March of 2004. During the October 2003 - March 2004 period, 163 fishers participated in this training program at the Holland College Marine Centre.

**Total Project Cost:** \$153,640.00

**Funding provided by PEI ASCI:** \$16,520.00

**Other Funding Partners:** HRDC - \$90,520.00; Participants - \$44,800.00; PEICPFH (In-Kind) - \$1,800.00

**Project Contact:** Ruth Inniss - Coordinator, PEI Council of Professional Fish Harvesters  
Tel: (902) 894-3901

## 24. Oyster Production and Health Monitoring

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**Proponent:** PEI Shellfish Association

**Project Number:** 03-HAR-023

**Project Status:** Complete

**Project Start/Completion Date:** 27 October 2003 - May 2005

### **Project Objective:**

To develop a monitoring program that will enable coastal zone management strategies to be implemented to optimize oyster production and decrease mortality, mainly in relation to overwinter survival. This will include the evaluation and monitoring of the population structure and physiologic health of the oysters and their habitat in Bedeque Bay; and the evaluation and monitoring of the environmental and anthropogenic factors in relation to population health.

### **Summary of Outcome:**

Many different aspects relating to the health of the oyster fishery were studied as part of this research project. The two main areas of concern for the health of the oyster population are siltation occurring in the spring of the year and the decrease in condition index observed throughout the study period. Increased siltation occurred in 2005 and anecdotally in 2003, the year of heavy mortalities. In both years there were heavy rainfall events occurring after late March. The amount of siltation quantified in 2005 was dramatic and may have had an effect on the filtering capabilities and energy status of the oysters as they resumed filtering in the spring as water temperatures increase. The condition index decreased from fall of 2003 and spring of 2005. Oysters rely on resources stored in the fall to maintain them over the winter as their feed capacity is greatly reduced in cold water.

The study showed that the death of oysters occurs in late April/early May and not during winter months. Oxygen and salinity levels were adequate in both years of the study. Sea lettuce did not appear to play an important role in covering the oysters during the winter season. Video footage showed a minimal amount of sea lettuce on oyster beds. The cause of the mortality event in 2003 was likely multi factorial, with increased silt deposition and decreased condition index as important factors that may contribute to a mortality event. Further monitoring in these areas is needed to better understand oyster productivity and survival.

**Total Project Cost:** \$337,075.00

**Funding provided by PEI ASCI:** \$25,000.00

**Other Funding Partners:** Canadian Centre for Fisheries Innovation (CCFI); PEI Dept. of Fisheries and Aquaculture **AFRI Program**; Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada (FSCP and in kind); Atlantic Veterinary College (in kind); PEI Dept. of Fisheries and Aquaculture (in kind); PEI Shellfish Association (in kind)

**Project Contact:** Frank Hansen  
Tel: (902) 831-3374  
Email: peishellfish@pei.aibn.com

## **25. Industry Communication for Validation**

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**Proponent:** PEI Council of Professional Fish Harvesters

**Project Number:** 04-HAR-024

**Project Status:** Complete

**Project Start/Completion Date:** February 2004 - November 2004

### **Project Objective:**

To fund a mail-out including postage and printing to all registered harvesters on PEI advising them of the upcoming validation vote. This project ensures that all eligible fish harvesters on PEI will be advised of meeting times and venues as well as further information on the professionalization initiative.

### **Summary of Outcome:**

The PEICPFH conducted a communications mail-out to all core and crew fish harvesters on PEI. The mail-out was conducted in early July 2004 with packages mailed to 3,742 participants. The printing of all material was conducted by Kwik-Copy, the postage by Canada Post and the envelopes were addressed by the Department of Fisheries and Oceans at the PEI Regional office in Charlottetown.

**Total Project Cost:** \$4418.99 (Slippage on project redistributed to 'Unallocated Funds')

**Funding provided by PEIASCI:** \$4725.70

**Project Contact:** Ruth Inniss - Coordinator, PEI Council of Professional Fish Harvesters  
Tel: (902) 894-3901

## **26. PEI Aquaculture Industry MED Safety Training**

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**Proponent:** PEI Aquaculture Alliance

**Project Number:** 04-HAR-025

**Project Status:** Complete

**Project Start/Completion Date:** March 2004 -

### **Project Objective:**

The objective of this initiative was to provide local, industry-relevant Transport Canada mandated Marine Emergency Duties courses, and to encourage industry participation in the marine safety courses by way of reduced registration costs for Alliance members. The aquaculture industry on PEI is a significant contributor to the Island economy, employing 1500-2000 individuals each year. In an effort to sustain this employment rate, it is imperative that the PEI aquaculture industry has appropriate training mechanisms readily available in local Island communities.

### **Summary of Outcome:**

Due to changing requirements for operators of commercial marine vehicles the Prince Edward Island Aquaculture Alliance made application to the PEI Atlantic Shrimp Corp. Inc in February of 2004, for funding in an effort to encourage industry participation in Transport Canada's Marine Emergency Duties Courses, levels MED A1 and A3. The Shrimp Corp funding support assisted growers in receiving this certification by off-setting the costs of training, for these required upgrades. Since 2004, 85 industry members have been certified MEDA4 and one MEDA1. These courses offered safety training including: hazards and emergencies, firefighting, life saving, survival and rescue, all of which have proven extremely valuable to all members operating vessels less than 20 miles from shore. Without the support of the PEI Atlantic Shrimp Corp the Prince Edward Island Aquaculture Alliance could not have offered this assisted training to its members. The project has been a success and has resulted in a higher level of professionalism within the industry.

**Total Project Cost:** \$52,800.00

**Funding provided by PEIASCI:** \$28,650.00

**Other Funding Partners:** Industry (unspecified) - \$24,150.00

**Project Contact:** Jean MacDonald - Executive Director, PEI Aquaculture Alliance  
Tel: (902) 368-2757

## **27. Interim Office Support Project**

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**Proponent:** PEI Council of Professional Fish Harvesters

**Project Number:** 04-HAR-026

**Project Status:** Complete

**Project Start/Completion Date:** April 2004 - January 2005

### **Project Objective:**

This project will enable the PEI Council of Professional Fish Harvesters office to remain open and functional until the end of 2004. The transfer of registration will secure permanent funding for this however, the earliest the transfer will take place will be 01 January 2005 as communication with the industry in all three Gulf of Saint Lawrence provinces is still ongoing.

### **Summary of Outcome:**

This project enabled the PEI Council of Professional Fish Harvesters' office to remain open for one year. The office provided the infrastructure to continue work on the professionalization initiative on PEI and in the Southern Gulf of St. Lawrence.

**Total Project Cost:** \$44,926.00

**Funding provided by PEIASCI:** \$44,926.00

**Project Contact:** Ruth Inniss - Coordinator, PEI Council of Professional Fish Harve  
Tel: (902) 894-3901

**28. Ultrasonic Tagging of Lobster to Quantify Seasonal Migratory Movements between LFAs 24 and 25 - Western Northumberland Strait**

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**Proponent:** PEI Fishermen's Association

**Project Number:** 04-HAR-027

**Project Status:** Complete

**Project Start/Completion Date:** July 2004 - March 2005

**Project Objective:**

This project will involve the tagging of lobsters with individually identifiable acoustic tags which will allow tracking of individual lobster movements for more than a one year period. This project is an extension of DFO's acoustic tagging project for lobster between LFA 23 and LFA 25. PEI fishermen have also expressed interest in obtaining further information on the movement of lobster between LFA 24 and LFA 25. However, budgetary constraints at DFO require that additional tags and receiver be purchased. This project will assist in obtaining critical scientific knowledge to enable better management decisions for conservation and sustainability of the lobster resource in LFA 25.

**Summary of Outcome:**

Forty coded acoustic tags and a mobile receiver were purchased. In order to inform PEI lobster fishers of the project and obtain their cooperation in reporting caught tagged lobsters, an information kit prepared by the PEIFA was distributed to approximately 280 fishers at ports in the western end of PEI that were engaged in the LFA 25 fall season. Under the direction of DFO biologist Bruno Comeau, 20 lobsters were tagged in LFA 24 (Sea Cow Pond area) in September 2004; another 20 lobsters were tagged in LFA 25 (Miminegash-Skinners Pond area) in October 2004. Due to weather conditions, tracking exercises were not possible, though follow up searches will be conducted during the 2005 lobster season, as tags should remain functional for a one year period.

**Total Project Cost:** \$40,005.00

**Funding provided by PEI ASCI:** \$25,000.00

**Project Contact:** Ken Campbell - Communications, PEI Fishermen's Association  
Tel: (902) 566-4050

## **29. Halibut Trap Design and Testing**

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**Proponent:** PEI Fishermen's Association

**Project Number:** 04-HAR-028

**Project Status:** Cancelled

**Project Start/Completion Date:** July 2004

### **Project Objective:**

The overall aim of this study is to adopt and/or develop a commercially viable and conservation-oriented baited Atlantic halibut pot suitable for inshore vessels. Specifically, this study will analyze and utilize experiences of other groundfish potting fisheries; conduct a preliminary entranceway study to test four different entranceways that have been used in other commercial groundfish fisheries; if the preliminary entranceway is successful, conduct a comparative study using halibut pots and other traditional harvesting methods; conduct underwater observations during the preliminary and comparative studies to monitor fish performance and behavior; present all resulting information at a workshop/report in the fall/winter of 2005.

### **Summary of Outcome:**

Co-financed by the PEIACSI, AFRI and CCFA the first of three phases of this project was completed and final reports submitted. Phase Two of the project was necessarily deferred beyond 2005 due to an unfortunate accident to the participating fisher. Subsequently, CCFI was unable to secure continuing funding for the project and, without continuing financing available, the project was necessarily cancelled.

**Total Project Cost:** n/a

**Funding provided by PEIACSI:** n/a

**Project Contact:** Ken Campbell - Communications, PEI Fishermen's Association  
Tel: (902) 566-4050



### **30. Interactions between rock crab (*Cancer irroratus*) populations and mussel aquaculture**

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**Proponent:** PEI Aquaculture Alliance

**Project Number:** 04-HAR-029

**Project Status** (Active or Complete): Active

**Project Start/Completion Date:** December 2004 -

**Project Objective:**

For a number of years, concerns have been raised by PEI mussel growers as to possible impacts of the rock crab fishery within the cultivated areas. One assumption is that baited traps used in the fishery increasingly lure rock crabs away from the aquaculture sites, thereby reducing the crab abundance and also potentially the longline productivity. PEI mussel growers claim that rock crab remove fouling organisms (e.g. sea grapes, algae and unwanted mussel) spat from mussel socks/lines. In addition, growers maintain that the movement of rock crabs on socks helps reduce/remove excess silt/mud from socks and through agitation, cause the mussels to cling/adhere to the socks tighter. By scientifically testing that assumption, the results obtained could set a working base to improve the rock crab fishery management measures and thus ensuring that both industries can realize their full potential.

In keeping with this information, DFO biologists and the mussel industry propose a collaborative project that will evaluate the dynamics of rock crab in relation to aquaculture sites. Specific objectives are:

- Are rock crabs attracted to mussel socks on longlines?
- Is there a decline in rock crab abundance under mussel lines during and after the directed fishery?
- Are rock crabs beneficial to mussel operations?

**Summary of Findings/Project Outcome** (for Complete projects):

n/a

**Total Project Cost:** \$351,500.00

**Funding provided by PEIASC:** \$19,328.40\*

\* The original project was approved for \$18,000. An additional \$1328.40 was approved on April 20, 2005 to cover auditing fees for the duration of the project.

**Other Funding Partners:** Aquaculture Collaborative Research and Development Program (\$235,000); Fisheries and Oceans Canada (in-kind), Atlantic Veterinary College(in-kind)

**Project Contact:** Jean MacDonald - Executive Director, PEI Aquaculture Alliance  
Tel: (902) 368-2757

### 31. PEI Shellfish Industry Occupational Health and Safety Codes of Practice

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**Proponent:** PEI Aquaculture Alliance

**Project Number:** 04-HAR-030

**Project Status** (Active or Complete): Active

**Project Start/Completion Date:** December 2004 -

**Project Objective:**

As the setting of a safety standard will soon become a requirement for the shellfish industry on Prince Edward Island the PEI Aquaculture Alliance will be undertaking, with funding assistance provided by the PEI Atlantic Shrimp Corporation, a project to develop an industry Occupational Health & Safety Code of Practice.

This code will be developed by the industry in partner with a local consulting agency and will provide practical application methods for the shellfish industry. 1Upon completion of the OH&S Codes of Practice a copy will be forwarded to Diane Clark for official approval and recognition by Occupational Health & Safety. Industry members will be responsible for implementing the codes of practice on site and the compliance monitoring will be detailed within the code based upon consultations and discussions with Occupational Health & Safety staff.

The PEI Aquaculture Alliance will be responsible for providing the presentation of information to the shellfish producers and their employees upon completion of the code.

**Summary of Findings/Project Outcome** (for Complete projects):

n/a

**Total Project Cost:** \$28,635.00

**Funding provided by PEIASC:** \$22,135.00

**Project Contact:** Jean MacDonald - Executive Director, PEI Aquaculture Alliance  
Tel: (902) 368-2757

### 32. Radio Operator Course - Maritime Commercial Training

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**Proponent:** Western Gulf Fishermen's Association

**Project Number:** 05-HAR-031

**Project Status** (Active or Complete): Complete

**Project Start/Completion Date:** April 2005 - December 2005

**Project Objective:**

The ROC-MC course is required by Industry Canada for operators of vessels participating in the commercial fishery. Also, those fish harvesters participating in the commercial fishery i.e. the transportation of tourists, must have completed a Fishing Master IV certificate. Part of this FMIV training is the ROC-MC. The fishing Master IV certificate is mandated by Transport Canada. This project will be coordinated by the WGFA and will take place at the Holland College Marine Centre.

**Summary of Findings/Project Outcome** (for Complete projects):

This course was conducted by Holland College Marine Centre - Summerside on Thursday, December 15, 2005. Eight members of the Western Gulf Fishermen's Association completed the Radio Operators Course - Maritime Commercial.

**Total Project Cost:** \$2,600.00

**Funding provided by PEIASC:** \$1245.73 (Approved for \$2,600.00)

**Project Contact:** Craig Avery, President - Western Gulf Fishermen's Association  
Tel: 902.887.3883 Email: [avery@pei.sympatico.ca](mailto:avery@pei.sympatico.ca)

### 33. Study on the Impact of Bar Clam Harvesting on Lobster Habitat

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**Proponent:** Western Gulf Fishermen's Association

**Project Number:** 05-HAR-032

**Project Status** (Active or Complete): Complete

**Project Start/Completion Date:** July 13, 2005 - December 2005

**Project Objective:**

The Western Gulf Fishermen's Association (WGFA) initiated this project in order to determine the impact of bottom dragging activities on lobster habitat in the Western Gulf area. This project will document the before, during, and after habitat impact of the mechanical bar clam harvesting in this area. The sea floor areas have been carefully chosen by lobster harvesters and DFO scientists and will be photographed and documented to verify any impacts. The data collected will be used by the WGFA during discussions with DFO around the issuance of new bar clam harvesting licenses. This project will also make recommendations for the possible necessity of scientific research on the effect of sand and silt polluting the seawater. The results of this project will allow WGFA members to make more informed on lobster habitat conservation in the area.

**Summary of Findings/Project Outcome** (for Complete projects):

This project enabled the WGFA to conduct a study on the impact of bar clam harvesting on lobster habitat in the Alberton-Malpeque Bay region on the North shore of PEI. The region was divided into two experimental areas: one area off Hogg Island where commercial bar clam harvesting activity was being done and one control area off Cascumpeque Bay where there was no bar clam harvesting activity taking place. The report on the findings prepared by Michel Comeau, Lobster Biologist, DFO Moncton is available by contacting Rory McLellan at 902-436-3121.

**Total Project Cost:** \$56,450.00

**Funding provided by PEIASC:** \$34,062.32 (Approved for \$34,250.00)

**Project Contact:** Craig Avery, President - Western Gulf Fishermen's Association  
Tel: 902.887.3883 Email: [avery@pei.sympatico.ca](mailto:avery@pei.sympatico.ca)

### **34. HFA 16G Acoustic Sounding and Herring Test Fishery**

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**Proponent:** HFA 16G Herring Group

**Project Number:** 05-HAR-033

**Project Status** (Active or Complete): Complete

**Project Start/Completion Date:** August 2005 - December 2005

**Project Objective:**

Herring Fishing Area 16G Herring Group will conduct an acoustic sounding and test fishery project in participation with DFO Science - Gulf Region during the 2005 inshore herring fishery in HFA 16G. The main objective of this project is to collect information through the acoustic sounding & test fishery process that can be analyzed by DFO Science - Gulf Region and assist them in compiling a better stock assessment of herring biomass in the HFA 16G and hopefully allow DFO Science to provide a more accurate prediction of herring stocks for the future of this fishery.

**Summary of Findings/Project Outcome:**

This project enabled HFA 16G to conduct acoustic soundings, on 19 trips, during the months of August and September, 2005. In addition, six experimental nets (test fishery) were conducted at night on August 18<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup>, and 30<sup>th</sup> and the 5<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> of September. All information gathered from the project was processed by DFO-Science-Gulf Region in Moncton, for the production of detailed nightly maps of the fishing tracks, activities and biomass detected, and for further analysis of herring stocks.

**Total Project Cost:** \$43,000.00

**Funding provided by PEIASC:** \$13620.00 (approved for \$16,000.00)

**Project Contact:** Terry Carter - HFA 16G Herring Group  
Tel: 902-687-3147

### **35. HFA 16C/E Herring Acoustic Sounding and Test Fishery**

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**Proponent:** Western Gulf Fishermen's Association  
**Project Number:** 05-HAR-034  
**Project Status** (Active or Complete): Complete  
**Project Start/Completion Date:** September 2005 - January 2006

**Project Objective:**

This project has two objectives:

- (1) to obtain estimates of the relative size of herring schools in designated areas, and
- (2) to obtain indices of age-classes entering the population.

The acoustic recording units provide an objective method of estimating school size and combined with a system of reporting catch locations provide an abundance index for herring in each area. The strength of age-classes entering the fishery is important because the numbers and biomass of new age-classes entering the fishery have the most influence on changes in determining the appropriate fishing levels from year to year.

**Summary of Findings/Project Outcome** (for Complete projects):

The herring Acoustic Sounding and Test Fishery Project was conducted in Herring Fishing Area 16 C/E during the fall commercial fishery in August and September, 2006 with extra test fishing and sounding done outside the regular season in September and October, 2006. The project was done in collaboration with DFO Science under the direction of Claude LeBlanc, Gulf Region.

A gillnet fishing boat, the *Sting Rae*, with captain Kenneth LeClair from Tignish PEI, was equipped with specialized acoustic sounding gear to measure the nightly herring schools present on the fishing grounds during the fall gillnet fishery. In addition to regular nets, a variable mesh experimental gillnet with mesh sizes 2in., 2 ¼ in., 2 ½ in., 2 5/8 in., and 2 ¾ in. was used to sample all size ranges. The experimental net was set on five occasions between August 29<sup>th</sup> and October 13<sup>th</sup>, Acoustic logging of biomass data started on August 21 and was completed on October 13<sup>th</sup>.

Nightly biomass estimates were variable and require further analysis by DFO Science to be incorporated into their stock assessment and biomass estimates which will be reported to industry at the Regional Assessment Process meetings.

**Total Project Cost:** \$9,000.00

**Funding provided by PEIASC:** \$4,000.00

**Project Contact:** John Rochford - Western Gulf Fishermen's Association (c/o PEI Fishermen's Association  
Tel: 902-566-4050

### **36. Strait Talk: Public Consultations on the State of the Marine Environment and Fisheries of the Northumberland Strait**

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**Proponent:** Northumberland Strait Ecosystem Initiative Working Group

**Project Number:** 05-HAR-035

**Project Status** (Active or Complete): Complete

**Project Start/Completion Date:** December 2005 - April 2006

#### **Project Objective:**

Under the Oceans Action Plan of Fisheries and Oceans Canada, the Northumberland Strait Ecosystem Initiative was initiated in early 2005 with the formation of a region-wide Working Group to examine the causes of drastic in fish landing in the Northumberland Strait. Subsequently, the Working Group - composed of some 30 industry, environmental, academic, federal and provincial representatives – determined the need for broad public consultation on the condition of the Strait and what might be done to restore it to a healthy, productive condition.

The goals of the consultation are to (1) gather information concerning the current state of the Northumberland Strait; (2) Uncover local perceptions as to changes the Strait has undergone, how and why they occurred; (3) identifying ways and means for restoring the Northumberland Strait waters and the aquatic life which it supports; and (4) provide recommendations for research initiatives that will lead to collectively addressing the problems identified.

Meetings will be held throughout the three Maritime Provinces with four public consultations on Prince Edward Island beginning the first week of February, 2006. Venues are Montague, Charlottetown, Summerside and Wellington. The Working Group has contracted organizers, facilitators and rapporteurs to conduct the meetings and ensure that any person with an interest in the condition of the Northumberland Strait has the opportunity for comment and input.

A wide series of scientific examinations will get underway immediately following the public consultations. The Working Group in early 2007 will submit the results and recommendations for action to government.

#### **Summary of Findings/Project Outcome (for Complete projects):**

The "Strait Talk" project consisted of four public meetings in Prince Edward Island (parallel with similar meetings in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia) to attain public input and direction for scientific and socio-economic research on factors affecting the decline in the marine fishery in the central portion of the Northumberland Strait.

These consultations were attended by some 200 Islanders - fishers, aquaculturists, shell fishers, business persons, municipal and provincial representatives and interested citizens. Meeting format consisted of small groups utilizing the services of facilitators and recorders to ensure each individual was given the opportunity to express their opinion and that opinions all be recorded. An enormous amount of information was collected, all of it pointing to serious ecological problems in the Strait and the consequent socio-economic issues affecting individuals and communities.

Under the auspices of the Northumberland Strait Ecosystem Initiative Working Group, a "Report on Consultations", prepared by GTA Consultants, has been distributed to participants and is available on

the DFO web site. This report will now drive the direction of a series of scientific, socio-economic and ecosystem studies on the Strait for the next twelve months.

Operating under the authority of the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans for Canada and the Environmental Overview and assessment process, the Northumberland Strait Ecosystem Initiative is among the first of its kind in Canada, a holistic and multi-faceted approach to ecosystem investigation.

**Total Project Cost:** \$26,500.00

**Funding provided by PEIASC:** \$6,000.00

**Project Contact:** Ed Frenette - PEI Fishermen's Association  
Tel: 902-566-4050



### **37. Atlantic Canada Aquaculture Industry Research and Development Network**

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**Proponent:** PEI Aquaculture Alliance

**Project Number:** 06-HAR-036

**Project Status (Active or Complete):** Complete

**Project Start/Completion Date:** June 2006 - 2008

#### **Project Objective:**

The Prince Edward Island Aquaculture Industry provides an economic impact to the Island's economy of approximately 70 million dollars annually, providing some 2500 livelihoods for Island families. Currently the Atlantic Canadian Aquaculture Industry is faced with many challenges that impede the potential growth and profitability of this sector. The Atlantic regional Aquaculture industry must continue to better organize and coordinate its efforts to reduce inter-provincial competition and gain economies of scale in order to strengthen its global competitiveness and profitability.

Under this project, the Prince Edward Island Aquaculture Alliance (PEIAA) has made application to NRC-IRAP to establish and participate, via a R&D Coordinator (RDC), in the Atlantic Canada Aquaculture Industry Research and Development Network. The Network will be a unified voice for all the Atlantic Canadian Aquaculture Industry in matters of R&D, providing leadership, coordination and communication for the direct benefit of the industry. Through this network, the RDCs have not only been a valuable tool for industry but also for the funding agencies and government regulators as a point source for updates on current R&D science initiatives and issues within the industry.

#### **Summary of Findings/Project Outcome (for Complete projects):**

The impact that the RDCs and ACAIRDN have had and are having on industry is clearly reflected in the number of projects and the level of R&D funding that has been secured for the benefit of industry. This is indicative of the leadership role the associations are playing in aquaculture research and development.

The RDC's work with researchers and industry to develop new R&D projects, assist in the delivery of R&D activities, and communicate R&D results to industry, researchers, academics and funding partners.

The RDCs assist their associations' members by participating in the development and organization of conferences and workshops that communicate R&D issues and result in improved networking of the RDC with researchers, academics, and industry.

#### **Deliverables**

The ACAIRDN newsletter communicates ongoing R&D efforts underway in each of the Atlantic Canadian provinces and the activities of the Network. Subscribers include industry, government, academia and researchers.

The R&D priorities of the four aquaculture associations have been compiled into the Coordinated Priority Matrix.

The ACAIRDN Funding Resource document describes all of the funding programs for aquaculture in Canada and provides contacts for each program. This is intended for industry members to have a better realization of the programs that could benefit their company as well as provide better access to them.

The ACAIRDN website - AquaBase ([www.aquabasecanada.ca](http://www.aquabasecanada.ca)) is a portal for ACAIRDN materials (such as the ACAIRDN Funding Resource, ACAIRDN newsletter and Coordinated Priority Matrix). The website serves as a tool for communication and an information resource for clients and other interested parties.

AquaBase, the database developed and maintained by ACAIRDN, now contains over 550 records from all four Atlantic Canada provinces. The database is fully searchable and can be accessed via the website.

ACAIRDN Annual Research Workshop was held in Halifax in January 2007 as part of Soctian Pride, Gander in March 2008 as part of Cold Harvest.

Proactive technical materials on topics such as Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS), which have significantly increased public awareness about AIS. Other facts sheets have provided direct, sustained lines of reasoning to refute claims by opponents of aquaculture in areas such as nutrition, environmental sustainability, animal welfare and food safety.

The RDCs ability to network together, and with other Associations, has been identified as one of the success of ACAIRDN. They meet regularly with other aquaculture associations; in fact both BC Salmon Farmers and Shellfish Growers are now associate members of the network. These collaborative initiatives have directly reduced duplication ensuring that available research funding is used efficiently and effectively.

**Total Project Cost:** \$94,574.00/year for 2 years

**Funding provided by PEIASC:** \$12,000/year for 2 years

**Project Contact:** Jean MacDonald, Executive Director  
PEI Aquaculture Alliance  
Tel: 902-368-2757

**38. Study on the impact of scallop harvesting activities on coastal habitats and associated species**

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**Proponent:** Western Gulf Fishermen's Association

**Project Number:** 06-HAR-037

**Project Status** (Active or Complete):

**Project Start/Completion Date:** August 2006 -

**Project Objective:**

To determine the impacts of dragging on macrofauna and infauna - emphasis will be mainly be on scallop and lobster, but with quantification on the rest of the epibenthic megafauna and infauna. The study will occur in the physical habitat of northwestern PEI.

**Summary of Findings/Project Outcome** (for Complete projects):

n/a

**Total Project Cost:** 49,112.00

**Funding provided by PEIASC:** \$13,270.00

**Other Funding Partners:** WGFA - In kind \$3000.00  
DFO/University of NB - St. John \$15,000.00  
Fisheries Science Collaborative Program \$17,842.00

**Project Contact:** Fred Beairsto  
Tel: 902-566-4050  
[fred@pei.sympatico.ca](mailto:fred@pei.sympatico.ca)

### 39. Innovative Scallop Culture Gear Development Project

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**Proponent:** Northumberland Strait Diversification Sea Scallop Research Group

**Project Number:** 06-HAR-038

**Project Status** (Active or Complete): Pending Fulfilment of Conditions

**Project Start/Completion Date:** July 2006 -

#### **Project Objective:**

From 2000 to 2002, the Botsford Professional Fishermen's Association (BPFA) from New Brunswick experimented with Hillsburn cages which had been designed and used in Nova Scotia. The survival and growth of scallops in the cages were encouraging when the cages were properly placed on the bottom. Conversely, if the cages were not descended carefully they had a tendency to tip over which was detrimental to the scallops. In 2003, BPFA deployed three new cage designs that were constructed specifically to avoid being tipped over. Results were encouraging with each of the new design showing stability. However additional studies are required to determine the ideal design. It was concluded that bottom culture cages should be constructed so that the last compartment is at least 15 to 20 cm (6 to 8 inches) from the bottom and compartments should be spaced 8 to 10 cm (3 to 4 inches) apart. The stable and low maintenance bottom culture cages greatly interest Prince Edward Island (PEI) scallop fishermen. Many PEI fishermen are also welders and have tools to construct their own fishing gear and could therefore construct bottom cages suitable to their area. A group of 41 fishermen from eastern PEI formed a corporation called "Northumberland Strait Diversification Sea Scallop Research Group". They applied for and have received funding to improve the scallop bottom culture cage. They are also planning to design the cages in such a way as to provide habitat to bottom dwelling animals such as lobsters. In other words the cages would act as temporary artificial reefs.

#### **Summary of Findings/Project Outcome** (for Complete projects):

n/a

**Total Project Cost:** \$112,000

**Funding provided by PEIASC:** \$15,000.00 (over 3 years). *PEIASC funding is conditional on the financial support of the other project funders.*

Other Project Funders: AFRI, ACOA, and DFO.

**Project Contact:** Ronald MacLean  
Tel: 902-962-2203

#### 40. Restructuring of the PEI Fishermen's Association Ltd.

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**Proponent:** PEI Fishermen's Association

**Project Number:** 06-HAR-039

**Project Status** (Active or Complete): Complete

**Project Start/Completion Date:** October 2006 - January 2007

**Project Objective:**

Pending.

**Summary of Findings/Project Outcome** (for Complete projects):

With financial assistance from the PEIASC, Solutions 1 Consultants, Charlottetown, was the firm engaged by the PEI Fisherman's Association to research, investigate and prepare a written report and presentation on the restructuring requirements of the Association to be more effective in its role in the regional fishing industry.

Over the course of four months, the consultant analyzed incorporation documents and existing bylaws; interviewed board members, staff and Local board members; held discussions with federal, provincial and industry representatives; and reviewed various other organizational structures and processes. Following a critique of existing issues, he developed a 56-page report of recommendations which was presented to the PEIFA annual convention in January 2007.

The report was well received by the convention delegates. The PEIFA has since established a working group to examine the report in detail, make certain adjustments and it is expected that changes to the organization will be voted on by the rank-and-file membership prior to the opening of the 2007 fishing season.

The PEIFA gratefully thanks the PEI Atlantic Shrimp Corporation for its generous contribution to this project.

**Total Project Cost: \$21,200.00**

**Funding provided by PEIASC: \$14,840.00.**

Other Project Funders: PEIFA

**Project Contact:** Ed Frenette  
Tel: 902-566-4050  
[managerpeifa@eastlink.ca](mailto:managerpeifa@eastlink.ca)

#### **41. Financial Assistance to Attend the 2006 ICCAT Meeting**

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**Proponent:** PEI Fishermen's Association's Large Pelagic Advisory Committee

**Project Number:** 06-HAR-040

**Project Status** (Active or Complete): Complete

**Project Start/Completion Date:** October 2006 - January 2007

**Project Objective:**

Pending.

**Summary of Findings/Project Outcome** (for Complete projects):

Walter Bruce, representing the PEI Fishermen's Association as co-chair of the Large Pelagics Advisory attended the meeting as part of the Canadian delegation. As a representative on the delegation he was able to participate in the general sessions, specific discussion forums on stock status, statistical reporting and compliance requirements, as well as multi-lateral discussions and negotiations on establishing quota levels and quota allocations. Although the total western Atlantic quota was reduced in accordance with the scientific advice, Canada was able to fend off some of the demands for increased quota from Mexico as well as negotiate some extra quota from the U.S.A. and the possibility of a charter arrangement for further quota. In view of the strong lobbying from other countries at these meetings it is very important for PEI and Canada that we are represented and have an effective and strong delegation.

**Total Project Cost:** \$4895.00

**Funding provided by PEIASC:** \$3395.00

Other Project Funders: PEI Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Aquaculture

**Project Contact:** Walter Bruce  
Tel: 902-357-2638

## **42. Marine Emergency Duties Training - A1**

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**Proponent:** Western Gulf Fishermen's Association

**Project Number:** 06-HAR-041

**Project Status** (Active or Complete): Complete

**Project Start/Completion Date:** December 2006 - January 2007

**Project Objective:**

To provide Marine Emergency Duty - A1 training to 36 small vessel operators and/or their crew members.

**Summary of Findings/Project Outcome** (for Complete projects):

The MED - A1 certification will become mandatory by Transport Canada, effective April 1, 2007, for all fish harvesters participating in the commercial fishery. The Western Gulf Fishermen's Association coordinated this project. The course was conducted by the Holland College Marine Centre between Dec. 11<sup>th</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup>, 2006. Thirty-three commercial fishermen completed this training course.

**Total Project Cost:** \$20,300.00

**Funding provided by PEIASC:** \$10,200.00

Other Project Funders:           36 Participants @ \$225/participant - \$8100.00  
  WGFA (in-kind contribution) - \$2,000.00

**Project Contact:** Fred Beairsto  
                          Tel: 902-836-4192

### 43. Website Development - PEI Fishermen's Association

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**Proponent:** PEI Fishermen's Association  
**Project Number:** 07-HAR-042  
**Project Status** (Active or Complete): Complete  
**Project Start/Completion Date:** May 2007 -

**Project Objective:**

The PEI Fishermen's Association has engaged in a wholesale revision of its website for the benefit of members, the PEI fishing industry and the public, generally. The new web site will be user friendly with a more dynamic, diversified application. Members will be able to use the site as a one-stop electronic messenger for association news and views; direct contact to association personnel; interaction with other members; up-to-date information from governments regarding fishing plans, legislative and regulatory changes, meetings, etc.; a shopping portal for fishing industry items; and direct links to a variety of other industry-related sites ranging from weather forecasting to market information.

In addition to the site itself, the PEIASC contribution allows for modern training for PEIFA staff as well as installation of new hardware that will allow for easy administration of the site. It is expected that the new PEIFA web site will become the primary focus for information distribution to Island fishers in a very short time, filling a serious gap in the expansion needs of the association. The new site can be found at [www.peifa.org](http://www.peifa.org).

**Summary of Findings/Project Outcome:**

This project assisted the PEI Fishermen's Association to improve and modernize its information delivery to members and the general fishing community through the enhancement of the PEIFA website ([www.peifa.org](http://www.peifa.org)). The project provided funding for the initial construction of the web site and ongoing improvements to its architecture as well as training of staff to deliver regular updates to the site. Adjustments to the web site will be continued by the association following full utilization of project funds.

**Total Project Cost:** \$ 8,850.80

**Funding provided by PEIASC:** \$ 8,850.80

**Project Contact:** Ed Frenette - PEI Fishermen's Association  
Tel: 902-566-4050



**44. Development of Techniques and Mitigation Strategies for the Management of Invasive Tunicate Species Fouling Aquaculture Farms - *Module I - Development of an Effective Tunicate Diagnosis Method for Commercialization.***

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**Proponent:** PEI Aquaculture Alliance

**Project Number:** 07-HAR-043

**Project Status** (Active or Complete): Active

**Project Start/Completion Date:** 2007 -

**Project Objective:**

This four year project was initiated in response to the challenges of managing invasive tunicate species within the Atlantic Canadian aquaculture industry. Module I is one of three modules of the ACOA AIF multi-disciplinary project led by members of industry, researchers and government organizations. In this module it is our intent to develop a tunicate diagnostic kit through molecular probe techniques and experimentation with newly innovated bead-based flow cytometry technology.

**Summary of Findings/Project Outcome** (for Complete projects):

**Total Project Cost:** \$730,520 (over 4 years)

**Funding provided by PEIASC:** \$ 58,500.00 (\$14,625 - per year for four years)

**Project Contact:** PEI Aquaculture Alliance  
Tel: 902-368-2757

**45. Investigation into Control Strategies for Invasive Species - The Oyster Drill, the Violet Tunicate, the Clubbed Tunicate and the Vase Tunicate - On Oyster aquaculture operations.**

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**Proponent:** PEI Aquaculture Alliance  
**Project Number:** 07-HAR-044  
**Project Status** (Active or Complete): Complete  
**Project Start/Completion Date:** TBD

**Project Objective:**

Oyster Drill

- . To determine when the oyster drill becomes active following winter and control by trapping may be initiated.
- . Time period when the oyster drill is fecund and treatment options for egg cases.
- . Comparison of the efficacy of a variety trap designs for controlling oyster drill populations and study of the effectiveness of trapping (by studying population reduction) as a control method.

Tunicate Fouling

- . Study of impact of tunicate fouling on floating bag oyster aquaculture systems, and of utilization of the bag flipping technique (desiccation) as a control method for tunicate fouling.
- . Study of known treatment methods (lime, vinegar and water pressure) as control methods for tunicate fouling on submerged oyster bag systems.
- . Study of the impact of tunicate fouling on newly set oysters on oyster collectors, and the effect of treatments on the collectors to control the tunicate fouling.

**Summary of Findings/Project Outcome:**

Oyster Drill

- . Oyster drills were active from early June (and possibly before) to the end of October.
- . The peak feeding period for the oyster drills was between late August and early September.
- . From July to late October, 24 oyster drills laid 89 groups of egg cases.
- . From July to late October, 24 oyster drills consumed 301 oysters and 10 mussels (or

12.5 oysters per drill).

Bottom samples did not give any indication that trapping was successful as a control option. A shorter follow-up trial is required in the summer of 2008 to compare the oyster drill population.

The wire cage trap was the most effective at trapping oyster drills in Foxley River, followed by the A-frame design and then the minnow trap.

The highest number of oyster drills caught in one trap (wire cage) was 94.

The treatments utilized (hydrated lime, vinegar and brine immersions at 1, 5 and 10 minutes) on egg cases were not effective enough to be recommended as a control method.

All adult oyster drills immersed in solutions of hydrated lime, vinegar and brine for one, five, and ten minutes survived with no apparent impact from the treatment.

### Tunicate Fouling

- The OysterGro units worked to control tunicate fouling in all three tunicate-infested areas (March Water, Savage Harbour and Montague River) when turned bi-weekly for 24 hours.
- The floating bags were also successful at controlling tunicate fouling in the three areas when turned bi-weekly, although the cages did not perform well at exposed, high energy sites.
- September was a good time to effectively apply treatment to the submerged cages in March Water (clubbed tunicate infested area). Lime immersion was better for controlling the clubbed tunicates than the vinegar spray.
- There was no treatment that was more successful than the others for controlling the colonial tunicates on the submerged cages in Savage Harbour. All treatments, lime immersion, vinegar spray and washing performed equally to control the colonial tunicates. All the cages had some fouling on them at the end of the trial. This may have been due to new recruitment and rapid growth of the newly recruited tunicates following treatment.
- A double application of lime immersion, first in August and then again in September was required to control vase tunicates on submerged cages in Montague River. Hydrated lime was the more successful treatment for controlling the vase tunicate. It is possible that a third treatment would have reduced tunicate fouling even more.
- Regular inspection of gear and crop is necessary to monitor tunicate fouling and determine when treatment of the submerged cages is necessary.
- The oysters in the OysterGro units had slightly better growth than the other units and were in better physiological condition than the oysters in the submerged cages, based on condition index.

**Total Project Cost:** \$ 46,000.00

**Funding provided by PEIASC:** \$ 2,300

**Project Contact:** PEI Aquaculture Alliance  
Tel: 902-368-2757

**46. Development of Techniques and Mitigation Strategies for the Management of Invasive Tunicate Species Fouling Aquaculture Farms - *Module II - Discovery and Development of an Environmentally Sound and Sustainable Anti-fouling Compound.***

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**Proponent:** PEI Aquaculture Alliance

**Project Number:** 07-HAR-045

**Project Status** (Active or Complete): Active

**Project Start/Completion Date:** 2007 -

**Project Objective:**

This four year project was initiated in response to the challenges of managing invasive tunicate species within the Atlantic Canadian aquaculture industry. Module II is the second of three modules of the ACOA AIF multi-disciplinary project led by members of industry, researchers and government organizations. Preventing new introductions and controlling the further spread of established species are the most effective means of addressing the threat of these organisms to aquatic systems. In this module it is our intent to develop an environmentally sound and sustainable anti-fouling agent derived from Atlantic Canadian marine natural products.

**Summary of Findings/Project Outcome** (for Complete projects):

**Total Project Cost:** \$ 607,556.00 (over 4 years)

**Funding provided by PEIASC:** \$ 48,500.00 (\$12,125 - per year for four years)

**Project Contact:** PEI Aquaculture Alliance  
Tel: 902-368-2757

**47. Development of Techniques and Mitigation Strategies for the Management of Invasive Tunicate Species Fouling Aquaculture Farms - *Module III - Development of Tunicate Treatment Technologies for Direct Application.***

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**Proponent:** PEI Aquaculture Alliance

**Project Number:** 07-HAR-046

**Project Status** (Active or Complete): Active

**Project Start/Completion Date:** 2007 -

**Project Objective:**

This four year project was initiated in response to the challenges of managing invasive tunicate species within the Atlantic Canadian aquaculture industry. Module III is the final module of the ACOA AIF multi-disciplinary project led by members of industry, researchers and government organizations. In this module it is our intent to expand on research and technologies developed in the first two modules of the project, in order to design industry applicable tunicate fouling treatment methods.

**Summary of Findings/Project Outcome** (for Complete projects):

**Total Project Cost:** \$ 1,788,708 (over 4 years)

**Funding provided by PEIASC:** \$ 143,000.00 (\$35,750 - per year for four years)

**Project Contact:** PEI Aquaculture Alliance  
Tel: 902-368-2757

#### **48. Policy for Commercial Aquaculture Diving in PEI**

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**Proponent:** PEI Aquaculture Alliance

**Project Number:** 07-HAR-047

**Project Status** (Active or Complete): Active

**Project Start/Completion Date:** TBD

**Project Objective:**

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**Summary of Findings/Project Outcome** (for Complete projects):

**Total Project Cost:** \$ 9,200.00

**Funding provided by PEIASC:** \$ 4,600.00

**Project Contact:** Peter Warris - PEI Aquaculture Alliance  
Tel: 902-368-2757

#### 49. Development of Expanded Training Initiative for PEI Fishers

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**Proponent:** PEI Fishermen's Association & Prince County Fishermen's Association

**Project Number:** 07-HAR-048

**Project Status** (Active or Complete): Complete

**Project Start/Completion Date:** September 2007 -

**Project Objective:**

The Prince County Fishermen's Association (PCFA) in cooperation with the Prince Edward Island Fishermen's Association (PEIFA) is initiating a project called Fisheries Skills PEI - Development and Expansion Project. The purpose of this undertaking is to further develop and expand the successful Island wide fisheries training program that took place in the winter of 2007. This present initiative will involve:

- Developing a fisheries training and implementation schedule for the upcoming season (fall 2007/winter 2008)
- Negotiating course costs, times and locations with training institutions.
- Preparing the funding application to Service Canada for tuition, travel and child care support for Island fishers.
- Developing a training pilot for a fisheries marketing information course.

**Summary of Findings/Project Outcome:**

The project was supervised by the executive of PCFA and PEIFA Training Committee. A fisheries training and implementation schedule for the upcoming season (fall 2007/winter 2008) was completed. Course costs, times and locations with training institutions were negotiated. The funding application to Service Canada for tuition, travel and child care support for Island fishers was completed.

**Total Project Cost:** \$ 7,250.00

**Funding provided by PEIASC:** \$ 6,750.00

**Project Contact:** Ron Caissie - PEI Fishermen's Association, Tel: 902-854-2743

Shelton Barlow - Prince County Fishermen's Association, Tel: 902-859-2537



**50. Support Funding to Hire a Fisheries Research & Liaison Officer for the PEI Fishermen's Association**

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**Proponent:** PEI Fishermen's Association

**Project Number:** 07-HAR-049

**Project Status** (Active or Complete): Complete

**Project Start/Completion Date:** January 2008 -

**Project Objective:**

The objectives of this project are (i) to encourage the direct involvement of PEI fish harvesters in the development, structure and participation of scientific projects pertinent to their industry utilizing their traditional knowledge of the marine resource; (ii) providing the PEIFA with a recognized science support program to the fisheries science community and funding agencies; and (iii) to improve the general communication and respect between Island fish harvesters and their association through increased liaison activity at the local level.

**Summary of Findings/Project Outcome:**

This project allowed the association to hire Ms. Laura Ramsay to the position of Fisheries Research and Liaison Officer on a one year contract. With her background in marine biology, Ms. Ramsay developed and, in conjunction with association members and government, implemented a number of science projects on various commercial fish species. In addition, she was able to keep members informed and up to date on issues of resource management and research developments on fishery issues. Following completion of the project Ms. Ramsay was retained in a full-time, permanent position with the association.

**Total Project Cost:** \$62,000

**Funding provided by PEIASC:** \$50,000

**Project Contact:** Ed Frenette - PEI Fishermen's Association  
Tel: 902-566-4050

## 51. Restructuring of the PEI Fishermen's Association Ltd - Phase II - Implementation

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**Proponent:** PEI Fishermen's Association  
**Project Number:** 07-HAR-050  
**Project Status** (Active or Complete): Complete  
**Project Start/Completion Date:** January 2008 -

### **Project Objective:**

Given the rapid increase in membership of the PEIFA resulting from the implementation of the provincial *Certified Fisheries Organizations Support Act*, the definite need to restructure the organization to meet the needs and demands of members is recognized. Accordingly, a private consultant will be contracted to review and critique existing by-laws and operations and to recommend necessary changes to better meet the needs of the marine harvesting community. Once this work is completed it will be necessary to hold a series of membership meetings to both inform members of proposed changes as well as holding a formal, special meeting to vote on by-law changes as prescribed by provincial law. Once complete, the new by-laws will be submitted to the provincial Attorney general for endorsement and implementation.

### **Summary of Findings/Project Outcome:**

This project was the culmination of a restructuring process undertaken by the PEIFA to modernize and make governance more efficient and effective. The project consisted of a series of meetings by a member committee reviewing and developing by law changes, then a special general membership meeting to vote on by law changes as recommended. The process was completed and by law changes were endorsed by the provincial Attorney General.

**Total Project Cost:** \$9,500

**Funding provided by PEIASC:** \$8,000

**Project Contact:** Ed Frenette - PEI Fishermen's Association  
Tel: 902-566-4050

## 52. WHMIS Training for the PEI Aquaculture Industry

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**Proponent:** PEI Aquaculture Alliance  
**Project Number:** 07-HAR-051  
**Project Status** (Active or Complete): Complete  
**Project Start/Completion Date:** January 2008 -

### **Project Objective:**

The project would fund the training of two industry members as qualified WHMIS (Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System) trainers. These individuals would then train Association members in the correct handling of control products such as lime, vinegar and other chemicals.

### **Objectives:**

Phase 1 - Train two people as qualified WHMIS trainers.

Phase 2 - Use these qualified trainers to train PEI aquaculture staff/crew in WHMIS.

Phase 3 - Continue to train new staff as required on an ongoing basis at a lower cost than currently available WHMIS training.

### **Summary of Findings/Project Outcome:**

This project funded the training of industry members as qualified WHMIS (Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System) trainers. These individuals then trained Association members about WHMIS and its correct application in the workplace.

### **Objectives:**

Phase 1 - Train industry related individuals as qualified WHMIS trainers.

Phase 2 - Use these qualified trainers to train PEI aquaculture staff/crew in WHMIS.

Phase 3 - Continue to train new staff as required on an ongoing basis at a lower cost than currently available WHMIS training.

### **Results**

Phase 1: Three people completed the train the WHMIS trainers course and can train the aquaculture industry workers. Materials were both supplied and prepared for use in the courses. A participants workbook was prepared and a test to be administered at the end of the course.

Phase 2: A total of thirteen courses were held, with 162 people trained, tested, and issued WHMIS certificates.

Phase 3: These train the trainer skills will be able to be used long term in the industry and additional courses will continue after the life of this project which will accommodate the turn over rates of the seasonal workers.. Further courses are planned for the winter / spring of 2010.

**Total Project Cost:** \$15,237.50

**Funding provided by PEIASC: \$10,737.50**

**Project Contact:** Linda Duncan, Executive Director  
Tel: 902-368-2757

**53. Pre-Assessment of the Prince Edward Island Lobster Fishery for Marine Stewardship Council Certification**

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**Proponent:** PEI Fishermen's Association & PEI Seafood Processors Association

**Project Number:** 08-HAR-052

**Project Status** (Active or Complete): Complete

**Project Start/Completion Date:** January 2008 -

**Project Objective:**

The PEI Atlantic Shrimp Corporation Inc. approved a project submitted jointly by the PEI Fishermen's Association and the PEI Seafood Processing Association, in conjunction with the PEI Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture, for a Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) pre-assessment of PEI lobster in Lobster Fishing Areas 24, 25 and 26A. The pre-assessment will be conducted by Tavel Inc. Of Halifax, an independent fisheries consulting firm retained by the MSC to assess various fish stocks to determine whether or not such stocks meet the MSC sustainability standard.

This pre-assessment will advise the industry if there are issues in the PEI lobster fishery that may affect its ability to attain full MSC certification and corresponding eco-label standard as a sustainable fishery. In the event it does not, the resource management regime may have to be altered to ensure sustainability and future access to international retail markets. If the pre-assessment is positive, then industry and government can go forward with a full, detailed assessment to attain the MSC stamp of approval.

To date, MSC has approved more than 1,000 fish products throughout the world and it is hoped that PEI's largest and most important fishery will meet the sustainability requirements of an independent assessment.

**Summary of Findings/Project Outcome:**

This was a joint project between the PEI Fishermen's Association and the PEI Seafood Processor's Association to conduct an initial evaluation of the sustainability of the PEI lobster stocks. The assessment was completed showing the industry the relative position it held in attaining full certification to the MSC sustainability standard. This pre-assessment is now being used as the major tool by the lobster industry in the sGSL in determining whether to proceed with a full certification assessment of sGSL lobster stocks under the MSC international code of acceptance.

**Total Project Cost:** \$15,000

**Funding provided by PEIASC:** \$10,000

**Project Contact:** Ed Frenette - PEI Fishermen's Association  
Tel: 902-566-4050

Michael MacInnis - PEI Seafood Processors Association  
Tel: 902-629-1555

**54. PEI Shellfish Reorganization Project**

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**Proponent:** PEI Shellfish Association

**Project Number:** 07-HAR-053

**Project Status** (Active or Complete): Complete

**Project Start/Completion Date:** January 2008 - 2009

**Project Objective:**

Rory McLellan and Associates were retained to conduct an organizational review of the Prince Edward Island Shellfish Association operations. The scope of work encompassed a review of some secondary research and literature, key informant interviews with various stakeholder groups, and a telephone survey to investigate the perceptions and values with respect to the association and the industry as a whole. The main focus of the survey was to find better ways to serve the shellfish industry in Prince Edward Island.

**Summary of Findings/Project Outcome:**

The outcome of the study was the observation that more quality controls needed to be adopted to ensure the viability of this industry in the long term. Secondly that this be accomplished under the provisions of the "Natural Products Marketing Act" by the creation of a commodity marketing board or commission. This commission could provide a levy to fund the shellfish association in its enhancement and other activities as well as assure that quality oysters were provided to the market.

**Total Project Cost:** \$30,015

**Funding provided by PEIASC:** \$30,015

**Project Contact:** Clifford Bernard, President  
Tel: 902-831-3374

**55. Blue Fin Tuna Fishers Workshop**

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**Proponent:** PEI Fishermen's Association  
**Project Number:** 08-HAR-054  
**Project Status (Active or Complete):** Complete  
**Project Start/Completion Date:** January 2008 -

**Project Objective:**

This project was designed to have a consultant analyze and report to a general meeting of tuna fishers on options to attain the best possible price for PEI landed bluefin tuna.

**Summary of Findings/Project Outcome:**

The analysis was conducted, options presented and a full day of discussion by active tuna fishers resulted in the development of a comprehensive harvesting plan to attain the highest value to PEI tuna fishers.

**Total Project Cost:** \$11,503

**Funding provided by PEIASC:** \$9,938

**Project Contact:** Ed Frenette - PEI Fishermen's Association  
Tel: 902-566-4050

## 56. Fisheries Skills PEI - 2008 Training Project

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**Proponent:** PEI Fishermen's Association & Prince County Fishermen's Association  
**Project Number:** 08-HAR-056  
**Project Status** (Active or Complete): Complete  
**Project Start/Completion Date:** January 2008 -

### **Project Objective:**

The Prince County Fishermen's Association (PCFA) in cooperation with the Prince Edward Island Fishermen's Association (PEIFA) is initiating a project called ***Fisheries Skills PEI –2008 Training Project***. The purpose of this undertaking is to coordinate, promote and support an Island wide fisheries training program which has been developed. This present initiative will involve:

- Coordinating fishery training courses Island wide and providing a supporting role to assist fishers in accessing funding from Service Canada.
- Advertising courses to inform fishers of availability of training.
- Negotiating course costs, times and locations with training institutions. Emphasis will be on holding training in local communities where numbers warrant.
- Providing enhanced financial supports (additional 10% of course tuition) to fishers taking courses where tuition is in excess of \$500 per course.
- Developing a "Training Plan" for 2009 season

### **Summary of Findings/Project Outcome:**

During the months of January, February, March and April Fisheries Skills PEI coordinated training for 332 individuals from all regions of Prince Edward Island, assisting to upgrade people with the skills they require to retain, advance or find employment in the fishery and marine industry.

In surveying the fisher participants, the feedback about the courses was positive. Fishers learned that job opportunities for individuals with marine skills do exist outside the fishery and many have expressed an interest in pursuing future training options. A training plan for the 2009 season was completed.

**Total Project Cost:** \$24,862  
**Funding provided by PEIASC:** \$23,862

**Project Contact:** Ed Frenette - PEI Fishermen's Association  
Tel: 902-566-4050

Shelton Barlow - Prince County Fishermen's Association  
Tel: 902-859-2537



## 57. Silverside Pinfish Sorting Machine

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**Proponent:** Donald E. Johnston

**Project Number:** 07-HAR-057

**Project Status** (Active or Complete): Complete

**Project Start/Completion Date:** May 2008 - December 2009

### **Project Objective:**

The silverside fishery has been experiencing an unusually large influx of pinfish over recent years. Pinfish, which are sticklebacks, have a number of exterior spiny rays which create difficulty when processing the silversides for food purposes. These fish essentially render the silversides useless for human consumption.

The purpose of this project is to construct a prototype pinfish/silverside sorter. The goal is to reduce or eliminate pinfish in the silverside catch which is delivered to the packer.

The machine will attempt to take advantage of the physiological differences between the two species. When live fish are harvested, the silversides tend to be lively while the pinfish seem to just lay flat and don't jump around. The sorter will be constructed to allow feeding of the live fish through a hopper and the silversides will descend to the bottom of the sloped surface while the pinfish will lay flat and be removed by the rotating belt. It is essential to carry out this process while the fish are alive. Therefore, the sorting will be done while harvesting from the silverside trap on the water. The initial prototype will require a number of adjustments to ascertain the optimum elevation and rotating speed to achieve separation of the two species.

It is hoped that after the initial trials that the system could be mechanized to make the procedure more efficient and utilize less manpower.

After the process has been "tweaked" to peak efficiency, other fishers will be welcome to view and copy the machine to provide an overall benefit to the silverside fishery.

### **Summary of Findings/Project Outcome:**

#### **Total Project Cost:**

**Funding provided by PEIASC:** \$30,000 (over 1 year)

**Project Contact:** Mr. Donald E. Johnston  
Tel:

**58. Support for a Research and Development Co-ordinator for the PEI Aquaculture Alliance**

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**Proponent:** PEI Aquaculture Alliance

**Project Number:** 07-HAR-058

**Project Status** (Active or Complete): Complete

**Project Start/Completion Date:** May 2008 -

**Project Objective:**

The objective of this initiative is to support a Research & Development Coordinator (RDC) for the PEI Aquaculture Alliance to continue its participation in the Atlantic Canada Aquaculture Industry Research and Development Network (ACAIRDN); a collaborative voice for the Atlantic Canadian Aquaculture Industry in matters of R&D, providing leadership, coordination and communication for the direct benefit of the industry.

The aquaculture industry in Atlantic Canada is a highly technical industry, built on 30 years of research and development. ACAIRDN has been instrumental in assisting industry with this ongoing need for research at the local, provincial and regional level by providing scientific and technical support to the boards, management, staff, and members of the associations who often times do not have a background in technical science or do not have the time or facilities to undertake research. The RDCs also act as the industry liaison with government departments, academia and the public on a daily basis. The linkage of a network of RDCs enables the industry associations to work more closely together to develop and deliver projects of mutual interest that led to significant improvements for the industry.

**Summary of Findings/Project Outcome:**

**1. Identify Research Priorities**

The R&D Priorities Matrix currently contains 205 separate industry priorities, separated into 22 broad categories. This has been requested by a number of different organisations to assist in the development of their regional research priorities (e.g. DFARD, DFO-ACDRP and AMD).

This year the RDC's have developed or assisted in the development of at least 22 applications for research projects, workshops and missions, specifically addressing these industry priorities.

**2. Project Management and Delivery**

The impact that the RDCs and ACAIRDN have had and are having on industry is clearly reflected in the number of projects and the level of R&D funding that has been secured for the benefit of industry. This is indicative of the leadership role the associations are playing in aquaculture

research and development. The RDCs have been involved in over 20 of projects which are directly related to industry priorities.

### **3. Workshops**

The RDCs organised and coordinated eight workshops this year, double the deliverable target. They focused on both general R&D updates and specific issues of key interest to the industry.

### **4. Industry Member Communication**

The RDCs meet with Industry SMEs on a regular basis and have exceeded the minimum of 12 visits or face to face meetings.

### **5. Research to Support Bio-Security Policy**

NAIA hosted a regional biosecurity workshop which brought together industry members and experts in fish health management to examine current industry protocols and to help drive the development of regional practices that will result in optimal biosecurity. Subsequent to the workshop and a request to DFA for an update on infrastructure (action item), the DFA secured a consultant who is now examining infrastructure needs for the finfish industry.

### **6. Research Database**

AquaBase is a fully searchable database of aquaculture related literature. It was developed to address the "grey" area of reports and publications produced by Industry Associations and other organisations that are not always accessible through traditional journals or academic libraries and to maintain a database of such industry led research, starting with research that has been completed over the last five years.

### **7. Network Collaboration**

*Network Meetings:* The RDCs meet at a minimum bi-monthly with the purpose of discussing research initiatives and ongoing activities and potential collaborations.

*Interprovincial Communications:* ACAIRDN has initiated regular conference calls with RDCs from other associations in Canada, as well as the RDC from the Maine Aquaculture Association. The purpose of the calls is to foster communication between RDCs, and to invite contributions to the ACAIRDN Newsletter.

*Newsletter:* The ACAIRDN RDCs have distributed the two issues of the Newsletter, and have issued a call for content by February 27 to ensure completion of this edition prior to March 31, 2008. The ACAIRDN Website ([www.aquabasecanada.ca](http://www.aquabasecanada.ca)) has been launched, and copies of the Newsletter are available online.

**Total Project Cost:** \$74,883.54

**Funding provided by PEIASC:** \$20,607.47

**Project Contact:** Linda Duncan, Executive Director

Tel: 902-368-2757

## 59. Investigation of Trapping as a Population Control Strategy for two nuisance species on Oyster Aquaculture Operations

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**Proponent:** PEI Aquaculture Alliance

**Project Number:** 07-HAR-059

**Project Status** (Active or Complete): Active

**Project Start/Completion Date:** June 2008 -

### **Project Objective:**

The objective of the project is to determine whether trapping can be used by oyster aquaculture operations as a practical and effective population control measure for two nuisance species, the oyster drill (*Urosalpinx cinerea*) and the starfish (*Asterias vulgaris*). For each species one or two volunteer growers will set traps around their affected leases. Each trap will be of standard design and tagged with a unique ID number. Each trap will be lifted, emptied, restocked with bait and examined for damage at least once a week. The number and sizes of the trapped animals will be collected by the growers as they empty the traps. Effectiveness will be measured by plotting the total number of animals trapped each week across the whole season. The size of the animals caught will also be recorded to assess any effects on population distribution. The trial will be repeated in the same areas next year to compare population levels after the winter. Oyster mortality will also be assessed in the trial leases to determine if any correlations can be reached with trapping success.

### **Summary of Findings/Project Outcome:**

**Total Project Cost:** \$4,485 (year 1) and \$1,322.50 (year 2)

**Funding provided by PEIASC:** \$5,807.50 (\$4,485 year 1 and \$1,322.50 year 2)

**Project Contact:** Linda Duncan, Executive Director

Tel: 902-368-2757

## 60. Reproduction, environmental tolerances and recruitment related to tunicate population abundance

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**Proponent:** PEI Aquaculture Alliance

**Project Number:** 08-HAR-060

**Project Status** (Active or Complete): Active

**Project Start/Completion Date:** May 2008 -

### **Project Objective:**

The mussel industry in PEI has been negatively impacted by invasive tunicates since their arrival. These impacts continue to intensify and could potentially be devastating, including closure of aquaculture operations with a resulting loss of employment and economic spin off. The objective of the project will explore some aspects of tunicate biology which could be exploited to minimize tunicate abundance in aquaculture sites through more passive approaches. These will include:

- An investigation of the reproductive biology of *C. intestinalis* in PEI waters to discover potential predictors of spawning capacity (number of potential offspring) and spawning period to assist growers with treatment applications by determining the optimal time and effort of active treatment
- An evaluation of the environmental tolerances of tunicate early life stages in order to determine their level of vulnerability to natural and/or treatment conditions. Certain areas in PEI seem to be unique in the fact that they have been exposed to tunicates in the past; however, the tunicates have not successfully established. These areas will be examined to determine water quality parameters inconsistent to those where tunicates have successfully established. Once identified, their effect on egg fertilization and latter developmental stages, such as larval recruitment and development, will be documented.
- An investigation of the effects of water flow on the recruitment ability of *C. intestinalis*. Field observations are suggesting that tunicate recruitment varies largely within small geographical areas, and may be influenced by water flows specific to lease location or bay location. The effect of water flow on tunicate recruitment will be evaluated with the aim of reducing recruitment by creating unfavourable conditions for recruitment.

Other partners: ACRDP, DFO, PEI DFARD, PEI Aquaculture Alliance

### **Summary of Findings/Project Outcome:**

**Total Project Cost:** \$3,816,600

**Funding provided by PEIASC:** \$6,500 year 1, \$7,000 year 2, \$6,000 year 3

**Project Contact:** Linda Duncan, Executive Director

Tel: 902-368-2757

## 61. Herring Fishing Area E/G Acoustic Sounding and Test Fishery Project for 2008

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**Proponent:** PEI Fishermen's Association

**Project Number:** 08-HAR-061

**Project Status** (Active or Complete): Complete

**Project Start/Completion Date:** August 2008 -

### **Project Objective:**

This project aims to conduct herring fleet spawning bed acoustics and variable mesh gillnet sampling in conjunction with DFO Science during the 2008 fall inshore herring fishery in Herring Fishing Areas 16 E/G. In particular this undertaking seeks to obtain estimates of size of herring schools as well as age-classes entering the population. The information collected is analyzed by DFO Science and contributes to compiling a consistent, stronger stock assessment and understanding of recruitment and fleet dynamics for the local spawning areas.

### **Summary of Findings/Project Outcome:**

Selected fish harvesters collected important herring data using acoustic sounding equipment as well as variable mesh gillnets in both Herring Fishing Area 16E (Tignish, PEI) and HFA 16G (Fishermen's Bank, PEI). Technicians analyzed the information gathered for age-class information as well as spawning bed locations and densities. The 2008 Herring Project contributes to a consistent time series of data collection stretching back to the year 2000. Results are also reflected in DFO's annual 4T assessment of Herring in the Southern Gulf of St. Lawrence. For more information regarding this project including summary maps and annual herring reports please contact the PEIFA at (902) 566-4050 or [researchpeifa@pei.eastlink.ca](mailto:researchpeifa@pei.eastlink.ca) .

**Total Project Cost:** \$48,350

**Funding provided by PEIASC:** \$14,350

**Project Contact:** Ed Frenette - PEI Fishermen's Association

Tel: 902-566-4050

## **62. Investigation of Low Impact and Natural Treatment Options for Mitigating the Impact of Tunicate Infestation on Mussel Aquaculture Farms**

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**Proponent:** PEI Aquaculture Alliance

**Project Number:** 08-HAR-062

**Project Status** (Active or Complete): Complete

**Project Start/Completion Date:** July 2008 - 2009

### **Project Objective:**

Previous research and development trials have dealt with identifying mitigation techniques for tunicates on mussel growing equipment. The results from these trials have been promising, although environmental impacts have yet to be determined. The proposed project is looking for either a natural or a low-impact approach that is oriented towards changing or introducing husbandry practices to the mussel industry. It is possible that simple modifications into the daily operations could improve the overall quality of the mussels being produced. By working with growers who have previously used these techniques, and applying them to areas where they have not yet been employed, it is hoped that some methods could be developed and integrated into the current practices in areas where these techniques have yet to be tried.

Other partners: PEI Department of Fisheries, Aquaculture & Rural Development, PEI Aquaculture Alliance, AFRI

### **Summary of Findings/Project Outcome:**

The objective of the project was to investigate three existing mussel farm management practices that would be considered low impact or natural. These have been reported as an effective mitigation for tunicate infestation.

1. Mussel socks were sunk so that they touched the bottom substrate (bottom one foot of sock) or a piece of material was added to the socks as a "ladder" to the bottom. This allowed naturally occurring predators already present in local ecosystems access to the socks. The two variations of the trial were set up at the two different sites for comparison.

The sock touching method was beneficial in decreasing the volume of tunicates, in some areas by close to 50%. The ladder method also proved effective in some areas, showing a 50% decreased in tunicate volume. There was however a large variation between test areas. Results show the average shell lengths were longer in treated mussels at both sites when compared to the control samples; however there was no consistent trend in improvement of mussel meat yields.

Some observations for this control method were that additional maintenance is needed (line checking, adding buoys, adjusting ladder lengths, removing starfish, etc). As sock weight increases, buoys can be added, but potentially more attention is needed than is practical. The bottom section of the sunken socks was black and muddy, with no live mussels. In some areas the socks were in danger of being picked clean without interference; the majority of



large starfish were knocked off during maintenance between collections.

2. Mussel socks were raised up in the water column by adding buoys to the backline, leaving them suspended at or just below surface, allowing the socks to be exposed to wave action. This was done in three areas, a high energy (exposed to strong wave action), a mid energy and a low energy (sheltered) site. Nearby mussel socks were left suspended below the water's surface as controls.

Results show that the tunicate volume was less on the treated socks in all three areas. Most obvious was in the mid energy area, where there was an average of 80% fewer tunicates. Some observations on this method were that the treatment had the most notable affect on the upper half of the socks, while the lower half remained submerged and fouling greater and that the mussels located lower on the mussel socks were attached more loosely than at the top.

3. Mussel socks were washed using a low pressure, consistent flow of water. This was done by hand to help remove tunicates as well as other fouling organisms.

Results show a dramatic reduction in tunicate volume in two of the test areas, while results in another were comparable to those obtained using natural predator control (Method 1). In the tunicate free test area, the treatment was able to reduce the amount of fouling mussel seed by a quarter.

There was an increase in average shell length in three areas, though the mussel meat yield appeared to be largely unaffected by this treatment, showing little variation.

Attachment strength was greatly improved in washed samples at one site when compared to their controls, while at other sites the socks remained tight. The benefit of increased byssal attachment strength was apparent in one area with the successful harvest of 7 times more mussels on the treated socks.

Some observations on this method were that it is relatively quick and easy to perform, and requires only a pump, hose and nozzle for implementation. The mussel socks do need to be lifted completely out of the water in order to get complete access while spraying, and the socks may need to be turned by hand to ensure coverage.

**Total Project Cost:** \$73,422.38

**Funding provided by PEIASC:** \$3,671

**Project Contact:** Linda Duncan, Executive Director

Tel: 902-368-2757

### 63. Fisheries Skills PEI - 2008/2009 Training Project

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**Proponent:** PEI Fishermen's Association & Prince County Fishermen's Association

**Project Number:** 08-HAR-063

**Project Status** (Active or Complete): Complete

**Project Start/Completion Date:** September 2008

#### **Project Objective:**

The Prince Edward Island Fishermen's Association (PEIFA) in cooperation with The Prince County Fishermen's Association (PCFA) is initiating a project called ***Fisheries Skills PEI –2008 / 2009 Training Project***. The purpose of this undertaking is to coordinate, promote and support an Island wide fisheries training program which has been developed. This present initiative will involve:

Coordinating fishery training courses Island wide and providing a supporting role to assist fishers in determining the training necessary to meet Transport Canada guidelines.

Coordinating fishery training courses Island wide and providing a supporting role to assist fishers in accessing funding from Service Canada.

Advertising courses to inform fishers of availability of training.

Negotiating course costs, times and locations with training institutions. Emphasis will be on holding training in local communities where numbers warrant.

Providing enhanced financial supports (additional 10% of course tuition) to fishers taking courses where tuition is in excess of \$500 per course.

Providing assistance of \$250 for 60 fishers who take the MED A1 training. Service Canada no longer subsidizes any training of three days or less.

Developing a "Training Plan" for 2010 season.

**Summary of Findings/Project Outcome:** (for completed projects)

**Total Project Cost:** \$57,000

**Funding provided by PEIASC:** \$56,000

**Project Contact:** Ed Frenette - PEI Fishermen's Association

Tel: 902-566-4050

Shelton Barlow - Prince County Fishermen's Association

Tel: 902-859-2537

## 64. Support Funding to Attend 2008 ICCAT Conference

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**Proponent:** PEI Fishermen's Association

**Project Number:** 08-HAR-064

**Project Status** (Active or Complete): Complete

**Project Start/Completion Date:** September 2008

### **Project Objective:**

The project was designed to afford PEI Blue Fin Tuna harvesters, Canada's largest tuna fleet, adequate representation on the Canadian contingent attending international TAC and quota discussions at the International Committee for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) for 2009 and 2010.

### **Summary of Findings/Project Outcome:**

The project saw two members of the PEIFA's Large Pelagic Advisory Committee attend ICCAT meetings in Morocco as part of the Canadian delegation. As such, the PEIFA representatives had direct input to developing the Canadian position on TAC distribution and quota sharing, especially between nations in the western Atlantic region. The results were positive in that while eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean quotas were reduced by some 25% with strict enforcement measures announced, western Atlantic quotas saw on a 10% reduction. While Blue Fin Tuna stocks are recognized as being over exploited in Europe and North Africa, the efforts of the Canadian delegates saw this nation's sustainable harvesting methods recognized internationally.

**Total Project Cost:** \$11,390

**Funding provided by PEIASC:** \$7,600

**Project Contact:** Ed Frenette - PEI Fishermen's Association

Tel: 902-566-4050

## **65. The Impact of the Green Crab on Bedeque Bay and North River Oyster Beds: Population Size and Risk Assessment**

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**Proponent:** PEI Shellfish Association

**Project Number:** 08-HAR-065

**Project Status** (Active or Complete): Active

**Project Start/Completion Date:** September 2008

### **Project Objective:**

The first objective is to conduct estimations of green crab population size in Bedeque Bay and North River. The information currently available for both areas is not quantitative. A more informative approach will result from systematic sampling that target not only large (adult) green crabs but also juvenile green crabs.

The second main objective is to identify oyster's most vulnerable stages to predation by different crab stages. Bivalve survival is usually considered size-dependent therefore knowledge on the size at which crab predation declines most substantially is essential in order to implement the best measures.

The last objective is to identify potential mitigation measures to prevent/reduce mortality of oyster's most vulnerable stages. The literature will be consulted and specific trials will be performed in order to test the efficiency of potential alternatives.

**Summary of Findings/Project Outcome:** (for completed projects)

**Total Project Cost:** \$74,500

**Funding provided by PEIASC:** \$7,450 over 2 years

**Project Contact:** Clifford Bernard, President

Tel: 902-831-3374

## 66. Validation of Oyster Seed Relay as a Tool for Enhancement of Public Oyster Beds on PEI

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**Proponent:** PEI Shellfish Association  
**Project Number:** 08-HAR-066  
**Project Status** (Active or Complete): Active  
**Project Start/Completion Date:** September 2008

### **Project Objective:**

PEI Shellfish Association is purchasing one year old seed to assess the outcome of seed relays. This seed is being put on seven sites and will be equipped with temperature recorders and samples will be taken spring and fall over a three year period.

### **Summary of Findings/Project Outcome:**

**Total Project Cost:** \$53,993

**Funding provided by PEIASC:** \$28,837

**Project Contact:** Clifford Bernard, President

Tel: 902-831-3374

## 67. Frozen Storage Facility Concept for Consideration

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**Proponent:** Western Gulf Fishermen's Association

**Project Number:** 08-HAR-067

**Project Status** (Active or Complete): Complete

**Project Start/Completion Date:** January 2009

### **Project Objective:**

Western Gulf Fishermen's Association Inc is exploring the viability of a freezer facility that would stabilize their and other Western PEI fishers' bait costs, as well as determining if such a facility could provide capacity and at what cost for other seasonal products to the benefit of the broader Western P.E.I. community.

### **Summary of Findings/Project Outcome:**

Phase I of the project - a feasibility study - revealed that the construction and operation of a 5-million pound cold storage facility in Western Prince Edward Island is feasible under certain circumstances. Through Phase II of the study - development of a business plan - the consultant met with prospective stakeholders in the facility and potential funding partners. However, the 2009 lobster season saw prices drop significantly and consequently there was little appetite among the prospective partners for the sizable investment required to move forward with the facility. Subsequent to the study's conclusion, a party from outside of the immediate area of the study has expressed interest in participating in the facility's development.

For more information on this study, please contact Craig Avery, President, Western Gulf Fishermen's Association at (902) 887-3883, [avery@pei.sympatico.ca](mailto:avery@pei.sympatico.ca)

**Total Project Cost:** \$18,000

**Funding provided by PEIASC:** \$12,000

**Project Contact:** Craig Avery

## 68. Project Funding P.E.I. Shellfish Association Executive Director

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**Proponent:** PEI Shellfish Association

**Project Number:** 08-HAR-068

**Project Status** (Active or Complete): Active

**Project Start/Completion Date:** January 2009

### **Project Objective:**

This individual is expected to provide leadership for the PEI Shellfish Association to assist in developing strategies to address issues facing the shellfish industry. He/she is to represent the interests of the PEI Shellfish Association to both levels of government, other industry associations and the general public, as well as obtain long term funding for oyster enhancement and other appropriate development projects. He/she is to identify mechanisms and/or sources of long term core funding for the Association.

### **Summary of Findings/Project Outcome:**

**Total Project Cost:** \$221,500

**Funding provided by PEIASC:** \$96,500 over 2 years (\$51,000 year I, \$45,500 year II)

### **Project Contact:**

Clifford Bernard, President

Tel: 902-831-3374



## 69. Developing a Strategy and Business Plan for the PEI Aquaculture Alliance (PEIAA)

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**Proponent:** PEI Aquaculture Alliance

**Project Number:** 08-HAR-069

**Project Status** (Active or Complete): Active

**Project Start/Completion Date:** January 2009

### **Project Objective:**

The PEIAA last went through a strategic planning initiative in late 2004 for the period of 2005 to 2008. Since this time, the mussel industry in particular has been devastated by aquatic invasive species (AIS) and almost all their strategic initiatives and priorities have been geared to try and find mitigation solutions. PEIAA staff efforts are focused for the majority of their time on this issue. The majority of aquaculture research and development dollars have been invested in AIS since 2006. The PEI aquaculture industry has to look hard again at its strategic direction with little increase in farm gate prices for product while there is an increase in costs of production.

Also, the PEI Department of Fisheries Aquaculture and Rural Development have requested an updated Strategic and Business plan from the PEIAA to continue the current agreement for levy matching which it uses to support the industry.

The objectives of this project are:

1. Develop a three year strategy plan defining the strengths, weaknesses, threats and opportunities for each of the industry sectors - the mussel, oyster and finfish industries. This will also identify industry priorities and direction.
2. Use this plan to incorporate the PEI aquaculture industry into the DFO Aquaculture Management Directorate national aquaculture strategy for the shellfish and finfish sectors to insure our industry sector priorities are recognized.
3. Communicate and drive PEI industry priority strategies at the national industry aquaculture forum to ensure PEI aquaculture is well represented.
4. Prepare a business plan for the PEIAA to support these strategies for the next three years of operation.

### **Summary of Findings/Project Outcome:**

The PEI aquaculture industry sees as its future vision the need for aquaculture in PEI to be a thriving, growing and prosperous aquaculture industry which is exporting product to expanding internal and external markets. We believe that this is possible using innovative technologies and sustainable harvesting practices which produce safe, quality and valued products.

We believe that we need to have a managed and protected aquatic environment which is protected from disease and further invasive species supported by an effective accommodating regulatory environment. Our industry will continue to thrive championed by successful value add research and development. PEI aquaculture will continue to generate more jobs for individuals, families and the rural communities as well as further contribute to the economic development of PEI.

This long-term vision of the PEI aquaculture industry that its members wish to build, in collaboration with government and industry stakeholders, provides a common focus for all involved, serving as a basis for the establishment of goals and objectives, strategy development, and decision making.

Key to industry's success is a managed aquatic environment that is protected from disease and new invasive species, while being supported by an effective, accommodating regulatory environment. Industry believes that it is strategic to utilize innovative technologies and sustainable harvesting practices, supported by successful, value-add research and development. PEI aquaculture wishes to contribute to the economic development of PEI and continue to generate jobs for individuals, families, and rural communities

Aimed at the realization of the long term goal for the PEI aquaculture industry, the cultured mussel, oyster, and finfish sectors have identified the following priority three-year goals:

Cultured Mussel Sector:

Goal #1: Increase the farm gate value of cultured mussel grower product

Goal #2: Manage current and prevent new invasive species

Cultured Oyster Sector:

Goal #1: Increase production of cultivated oysters

Goal #2: Protect water quality and prevent the introduction of MSX to PEI

Cultured Finfish Sector:

Goal #1: Gain access to adequate fish health services

The PEIAA's mandate is to enhance aquaculture industry prosperity through its development as an effective world competitor. In support of the goals established by the mussel, oyster, and finfish sectors, the PEIAA will dedicate its resources to advance the following priority objectives for the period May 2009 to April 2010.

### **Advocacy Objectives**

The PEIAA will conduct advocacy to gain access to financing for cultured mussel growers for equipment to manage tunicate infestation.

The PEIAA will conduct advocacy to gain access to financing for cultured oyster growers and production growth.

The PEIAA will review the DFO National Aquaculture Strategic Action Plan Initiative changes to national strategy and programs, as well as funding opportunities, and re-assess the Aquaculture Alliance strategic goals and objectives to maximize value to the PEI aquaculture industry. The PEIAA will conduct advocacy to achieve implementation of provincially-funded fish health testing services for the Finfish sector.

The PEIAA will conduct advocacy to achieve modifications to the Atlantic fish health certification regulations to accommodate hatchery and R&D land-based and freshwater Finfish operations

## **Stewardship Objectives**

The PEIAA will conduct advocacy to gain access to financing for cultured oyster growers and production growth.

The PEIAA will conduct a water quality gap analysis and identify requirements to: protect PEI water quality, prevent new invasive species from entering PEI waters, and maintain PEI's disease-free status. And, the PEIAA will conduct advocacy in support of aquaculture interests aimed at protecting water quality through changes to PEI land use regulations.

PEI AA will continue to conduct AIS awareness campaigns to stop the spread in aquaculture dependant estuaries

PEI AA will continue to strength collaboration on behalf of the industry with provincial and federal aquaculture departments; as well as the national and provincial aquaculture associations of Canada

## **Promotion and Communications Objectives**

The PEIAA will support the execution of the generic mussel marketing campaign.

The PEIAA will establish a media communications process and materials to support PEI aquaculture interests aimed at both promoting the industry and countering negative publicity.

**Total Project Cost:** \$9,850

**Funding provided by PEIASC:** \$7,650

**Project Contact:** Linda Duncan, Executive Director  
Tel: 902-368-2757

## **70. Fishing Master IV Home Delivery Project**

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**Proponent:** PEI Council of Professional Fish Harvesters

**Project Number:** 09-HAR-070

**Project Status** (Active or Complete): Active

**Project Start/Completion Date:** February 2009

### **Project Objective:**

This project involves the delivery of computer discs to 12 Island fish harvesters for their use to study the Transport Canada Fishing Master IV examinations. The fish harvesters will be mentored and assisted by Holland College Marine Training Center by a newly designed e-mail link as well as telephone assistance.

The progress of the Fish Harvesters will be monitored by the P.E.I. Council of Professional Fish Harvesters who will carry out a selection process and will be in weekly contact with the harvesters to make suggestions to enhance the technology, overcome shortcomings and ensure a reasonable success rate on examinations.

### **Summary of Findings/Project Outcome:**

**Total Project Cost:** \$43,250

**Funding provided by PEIASC:** \$43,240

### **Project Contact:**

Donnie Strongman, President

Tel: 902-831-2256

## 71. PEI Aquaculture Alliance Communications Plan

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**Proponent:** PEI Aquaculture Alliance

**Project Number:** 09-HAR-071

**Project Status :** Active

**Project Start/Completion Date:** February 2009

### **Project Objective:**

The PEI Aquaculture Alliance, which supports all sectors of the aquaculture industry across PEI and works in partnership with other related local industry associations, federal and provincial government and aquaculture associations across Canada, was formed to provide focus for the Island's aquaculture industry and to enhance industry prosperity through its development as an effective world competitor. The association's objectives are to: protect the interests of PEI growers, processors, packers and marketers; promote a cooperative spirit among the PEI Aquaculture Industry for their mutual benefit; to encourage industry driven aquaculture R&D with an emphasis on improving the economics of aquaculture and to gather and disseminate information resulting from research to members of the Alliance.

In order to fulfill these objectives the association must be able to effectively communicate with key stakeholder groups in both a proactive and reactive manner. The development of a communication plan would enable it to do so in a more effective manner, thereby supporting existing aquaculture operations and potentially helping to expand the industry.

The objective of this project is to develop and implement a communications plan to complement and support the mandate and objectives of the PEIAA. The project would have three main deliverables; a communication plan with fixed goals and deliverables, the design and printing of a set of information fact sheets and a wholly revised website with a content management system.

### **Summary of Findings/Project Outcome:**

#### Methods

Fresh Media, a graphic design and web site firm based in Charlottetown, were contracted to construct the new website and communication materials, using a common design theme. To allow the website to be updated in a timely and effective manner, a content management system was part of the website's design. A content management system is a tool which allows nontechnical users to create, edit and publish pages without affecting the website's architecture.

Development of the information fact sheets was done in consultation with the PEIAA staff and members. Crystal MacDonald, Carpe Diem Consultants, was hired as technical writer to ensure the effectiveness of the materials at communicating the intended message.

#### Results

The new website has been completed and launched. Extra domain names were also purchased, at the recommendation of the consultants, to protect the PEI Aquaculture Alliance brand and maximize the traffic to the new site. The site can be found at [www.aquaculturepei.com](http://www.aquaculturepei.com).

The new communication materials have been printed. A hard copy has already been sent to PEI Atlantic Shrimp Corp; further copies are available upon request from the Alliance office.

The communication plan has been written and will be presented to the board of directors.

**Total Project Cost:** \$39,288

**Funding provided by PEIASC:** \$18,832.80

**Project Contact:**

Linda Duncan, Executive Director  
Tel: 902-368-2757

**72. Atlantic Canada Aquaculture Industry Research and Development Network (ACAIRDN) 2009-1020**

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**Proponent:** PEI Aquaculture Alliance

**Project Number:** 09-HAR-072

**Project Status** (Active or Complete): Active

**Project Start/Completion Date:** May 2009 -

**Project Objective:**

Atlantic Canada Aquaculture Industry Research and Development Network (ACAIRDN)

The objective of this initiative is to partially support a Research & Development Coordinator (RDC), Peter Warris, within the PEI Aquaculture Alliance.

The R&D Coordinator will act as a technical resource to all Alliance members across the island. Peter will also represent the Alliance in its membership in the Atlantic Canada Aquaculture Industry Research and Development Network (ACAIRDN). Through this network the RDC communicates with other RDCs in New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Newfoundland aquaculture industry associations.

The R&D Coordinator role has been instrumental in assisting industry with this ongoing need for research at the local level as well as participating in regional projects, and will continue to address the aquaculture industry's research and development priorities throughout 2009/10.

**Summary of Findings/Project Outcome:**

**Total Project Cost:** \$77,334

**Funding provided by PEIASC:** \$29,438.00 over one year

**Project Contact:**

Linda Duncan, Executive Director  
Tel: 902-368-2757

### **73. Marine First Aid Training for the PEI Aquaculture Industry**

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**Proponent:** PEI Aquaculture Alliance

**Project Number:** 09-HAR-073

**Project Status** (Active or Complete): Active

**Project Start/Completion Date:** May 2009 -

#### **Project Objective:**

Changes made to the Marine Personnel Regulations (SOR/2007-115) (Canada Shipping Act, 2001) in July of 2007 require at least one designated first aider aboard any commercial vessel, regardless of size. For any vessel operating within 25 miles of the shore this means at least one crew member will have had to take and pass the Basic Marine First Aid course. The project will partially fund up to 45 industry members taking the Basic Marine First Aid course to become designated first aids for their boat crews.

#### **Summary of Findings/Project Outcome:**

**Total Project Cost:** \$8,150

**Funding provided by PEIASC:** \$4,775 over one year

#### **Project Contact:**

Linda Duncan, Executive Director

Tel: 902-368-2757



## 74. PEIFA License Rationalization Process

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**Proponent:** PEI Fishermen's Association

**Project Number:** 09-HAR-074

**Project Status** (Active or Complete): Complete

**Project Start/Completion Date:** May 2009 - 2010

### **Project Objective:**

The project was designed to support PEIFA members engaged in reviewing, debating and determining a way forward for respective Lobster Fishing Areas around PEI in addressing rationalization and harvesting issues in the DFO-initiated Atlantic Lobster Sustainability Measures program. This is a complex process affecting all PEI lobster harvesters, millions of dollars in subsidies and major adjustments to traditional harvesting methods. The process will continue until at least September 30, 2010.

### **Summary of Findings/Project Outcome:**

As part of the Fisheries and Oceans approach to industry requests for a lobster license rationalization program, in the summer of 2009 DFO announced a \$50-million fund for rationalization and sustainability of the Atlantic lobster industry. As part of this program, lobster fishermen in each Lobster Fishing Area interested in attaining support funding to retire licenses were required to develop rationalization and sustainability proposals for their respective LFA's. Accordingly, the PEIFA applied to PEIASC for support funding to undertake this process in each of LFA-24, 25 and 26-A.

Each of the three LFA's has a Lobster Advisory Committee consisting of one representative of each harbour. These committees are charged with the responsibility of informing fishermen of changes to fishing plans as well as keeping fishermen up to date with information on all aspects of the lobster fishery.

In order to meet the criteria established by DFO it was necessary that the members of each committee meet numerous times to explore a wide variety options that might be proposed under the criteria and the possible affect on fishermen throughout the respective LFA's. This portion of the process required reimbursement for travel costs and room rental for some 60 committee(s) members who met cumulatively on some 20 separate occasions.

Once each LFA advisory committee reached consensus on a proposal, each proposal was then put to the rank-and-file membership through a series of regional meetings. The separate proposals were then discussed, debated and voted upon by the membership in each LFA and subsequently forwarded to DFO for review.

While the negotiating process between each LFA and DFO continues, the proposal development and ratification process funded by the PEIASC project is complete. With approval of up to \$15,000 for the project, each LFA was allocated \$5,000 as its share of the project. With the number of fishers and the

number of meetings involved, all of the funds have been utilized. Certainly, the financial support of the PEIASC played a major role in allowing Island lobster harvesters to properly respond to the DFO rationalization and sustainability criteria in a unified manner.

Total Project Cost: \$15,000

**Funding provided by PEIASC:** \$15,000 over one year

**Project Contact:**

Ed Frenette, Executive Director, PEI Fishermen's Association  
Tel: 902-566-4050

## **75. Update and Revise the PEI Shellfish Aquaculture Environmental Codes of Practice (SAECOP)**

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**Proponent:** PEI Aquaculture Alliance

**Project Number:** 09-HAR-075

**Project Status** (Active or Complete): Active

**Project Start/Completion Date:** August 2009 -

### **Project Objective:**

The Shellfish Aquaculture Environmental Codes of Practice (SAECOP) are environmental guidelines that were put in place for the Island's industry in 2002. The goal of the SAECOP is to outline recommended shellfish aquaculture practices and to help ensure the industry maintains:

- Environmental responsibility
- Economic viability and
- Maximum product quality

It provides environmental management guidelines for primary off bottom and water column shellfish aquaculture. As a living document it can accommodate any changes in technology and practices. It currently has 278 signatories, the majority of whom are working shellfish farmers.

Five major factors (in no particular order) have contributed to the development of this project:

1. The original SAECOP was due for a complete review in 2007. This is now two years overdue.
2. In 2008 a study was conducted examining the potential for expansion of aquaculture in Malpeque Bay. The report generated by this study had several recommendations, one of which was a review and revision of SAECOP, to ensure its validity as an environmental management tool. Another was the development of compliance monitoring to assess the industry's success in adopting these codes of practice.
3. The mussel industry is about to go through a gap analyses against certification standards and the revised SAECOP will be used as a best practice tool in this exercise to ultimately identify the standard, third party certification body and a certification product.
4. Species at Risk Act (SARA), which came into effect December 2002, was not included in the original SAECOP. The act itself needs to be recognised in the codes and the act's terms and conditions must be reviewed to ensure compliance on the part of the Island's industry.
5. The arrival of several species of Aquatic Invasive Species since 1998 has resulted in several dramatic changes in shellfish farm management practices. There has also been a large amount of research and development done to investigate the biology of these species and ways to mitigate their impact. All this needs to be assessed and codified for inclusion into the SAECOP.

The objectives for this project are:

1. Review SAECOP to identify gaps and updates needed.
2. Prepare revisions and updates required.
3. Print and distribute the revised SAECOP document.

4. Develop a questionnaire/annual checklist to monitor industry compliance with SAECOP.
5. Perform a gap analysis to assess the requirements to include the Island's finfish aquaculture industry in SAECOP

**Summary of Findings/Project Outcome:**

**Total Project Cost:** \$13,850

**Funding provided by PEIASC:** \$4,850 over one year

**Project Contact:**

Linda Duncan, Executive Director, PEI Aquaculture Alliance

Tel:902-368-2757

## **76. International Conference on Shellfish Restoration**

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**Proponent:** PEI Shellfish Association

**Project Number:** 09-HAR-076

**Project Status** (Active or Complete): Active

**Project Start/Completion Date:** August 2009 -

### **Project Objective:**

In 2009 the PEI Shellfish Association is hosting the International Shellfish Conference from October 14 – 17 this fall in Charlottetown, PEI. The purpose of this conference, which is held every three years is to assemble world leaders in the enhancement and cultivation of shellfish and give them a forum to exchange views and strategies to enrich efforts to enhance these fisheries.

### **Summary of Findings/Project Outcome:**

**Total Project Cost:** \$15,000

**Funding provided by PEIASC:** \$5,500

### **Project Contact:**

Clifford Bernard, President, PEI Shellfish Association  
902-831-3374

## **77. 2009 Herring Fishing Area 16 E & G Acoustic Sounding and Variable Mesh Gillnet Project**

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**Proponent:** PEI Fishermen's Association

**Project Number:** 09-HAR-077

**Project Status** (Active or Complete):

**Project Start/Completion Date:** August 2009 -

**Project Objective:**

**Summary of Findings/Project Outcome:**

**Total Project Cost:** \$47,350

**Funding provided by PEIASC:** \$5,850

**Project Contact:**

Ed Frenette, Executive Director, PEI Fishermen's Association  
Tel: 902-566-4050

## 78. Fisheries Skills PEI 2009/2010 Training Project

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**Proponent:** PEI Fishermen's Association

**Project Number:** 09-HAR-078

**Project Status (Active or Complete):** Active

**Project Start/Completion Date:** October 2009 -

### **Project Objective:**

This is a continuation of earlier projects undertaken by the PEI Fishermen's Association and the Prince County Fishermen's Association to assist PEI commercial fishermen receive necessary training. In recent years, Transport Canada has introduced a new regulatory regime demanding that all commercial fish harvesters hold certificates of course completion for a variety of training programs pertinent to specific areas and types of commercial fishing. With the assistance of the PEIASC, the PEIFA/PCFA co-ordinate and subsidize required training programs for PEI commercial fish harvesters

### **Summary of Findings/Project Outcome:**

**Total Project Cost:** \$ 64,900

**Funding provided by PEIASC:** \$16,000 over one year

### **Project Contact:**

Ed Frenette, Executive Director, PEI Fishermen's Association

Tel: 902-566-4050

## **79. Support Funding to Attend 2009 ICCAT Conference**

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**Proponent:** PEI Fishermen's Association

**Project Number:** 09-HAR-079

**Project Status (Active or Complete):** Complete

**Project Start/Completion Date:** October 2009

### **Project Objective:**

The purpose of this project is to send two PEI bluefin tuna fishermen to the November 2009 conference of the International Committee for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas in Brazil. These individuals, Ken Drake and Walter Bruce, will be part of the Canadian delegation. This meeting is of crucial importance to the future of the PEI tuna fishery in that debate will be held on a proposal from Monaco to place giant bluefin tuna in the Mediterranean, eastern Atlantic and western Atlantic under serious trade restrictions. If successful, such a proposal would see the demise of the commercial bluefin tuna fishery in Canada. The PEI Fishermen's Association is a strong advocate of a continued hook-and-line commercial tuna fishery.

### **Summary of Findings/Project Outcome:**

This project was to support the cost of sending two PEIFA bluefin tuna representatives as part of the Canadian delegation to 2009 meetings of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas in Recife, Brazil. These were crucial meetings affecting the future of the \$2.5-million PEI bluefin tuna fishery discussing possible intervention by CITES to restrict or eliminate the bluefin tuna fishery in the eastern and western Atlantic. Any such restriction would result in the demise of the PEI bluefin fishery.

**Total Project Cost:** \$ 11,390

**Funding provided by PEIASC:** \$ 7,590 over one year

### **Project Contact:**

Ed Frenette, Executive Director, PEI Fishermen's Association  
Tel: 902-566-4050



## **80. Development of Aquaculture Management Plans for PEI Aquaculture Areas**

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**Proponent:** PEI Aquaculture Alliance

**Project Number:** 09-HAR-080

**Project Status** (Active or Complete): Active

**Project Start/Completion Date:** January 2010

### **Project Objective:**

The objective of this project is to develop Aquaculture Management Plans (AMP) for the Foxley/Trout River system and answer the following question: Should off-bottom oyster culture be increased in this area?

A consultant will be hired to work under the direction of a Project Manager, and a Steering Committee made up of federal, provincial and industry representatives. The consultant will identify, contact and meet with a group of stakeholders including, but not limited to, DFO, DFARD, CFIA (CSSP), TC (NWPA), representative associations and lease holders. The consultant will review the existing leases in the area, giving a breakdown by type and acreage and conduct a scientific review of existing literature and ongoing projects related to off-bottom oyster culture and production capacity factors. By identifying stakeholder issues and opportunities regarding the potential increase in off-bottom oyster culture in an area, and identifying those that can be addressed with current information available the consultant can recommend what work needs to be done to address the gaps in current knowledge. A report will be prepared for submission to the PEI LMB.

### **Summary of Findings/Project Outcome:**

**Total Project Cost:** \$46,100

**Funding provided by PEIASC:** \$5,000 over one year

### **Project Contact:**

Ronelda MacDonald, PEI Aquaculture Alliance  
Tel:902-368-2757

## **81. Atlantic Canada Aquaculture Industry Research and Development Network (ACAIRDN)**

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**Proponent:** PEI Aquaculture Alliance

**Project Number:** 10-HAR-081

**Project Status** (Active or Complete): Active

**Project Start/Completion Date:** April 2010

**Project Objective:**

The objective of this initiative is to partially support a Research & Development Coordinator (RDC), Peter Warris, within the PEI Aquaculture Alliance. The R&D Coordinator acts as a technical resource to all Alliance members and represent the association in its membership in the Atlantic Canada Aquaculture Industry Research and Development Network (ACAIRDN). The R&D Coordinator role has been instrumental in assisting industry with this ongoing need for research at the local level as well as participating in regional projects, and will continue to to address the aquaculture industry's research and development priorities through the following activities:

- A. Driving industry relevant R&D.
- B. Engage aquaculture businesses in R&D and build collaborations with government agencies, academic institutions, research organizations and other associations.
- C. Support the scientific and technical needs of the industry.
- D. Demonstrate aquaculture's sustainability through science.

**Summary of Findings/Project Outcome:**

**Total Project Cost:** \$

**Funding provided by PEIASC:** \$5,018.42 over one year

**Project Contact:**

Jarrold Gunn-McQuillan, PEI Aquaculture Alliance  
Tel:902-368-2757

## 82. Bluefin Tuna Catch and Release Trial Fishery

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**Proponent:** PEI Fishermen's Association

**Project Number:** 10-HAR-082

**Project Status** (Active or Complete): Active

Project Start/Completion Date: April 2010

### Project Objective:

Commercial quotas for Atlantic Bluefin tuna in Canadian waters have been reduced in recent years. As a result, the P.E.I. Fishermen's Association representing bluefin tuna fishers is exploring opportunities to add value to their fishery. The fishers propose to create a charter Catch and Release (C&R) fishery to target bluefin tuna off the coast of Prince Edward Island. The high abundance of large fish that are accessible on day fishing trips from Prince Edward Island is unique, and has the potential to attract tourists from around the globe.

### Proposed Experiment

In order to licence a C&R fishery, determine the impact of C&R fishing on the stock of bluefin, and to fulfill Canada's international obligations, the PEIFA will collaborate with Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) in a project to quantify the rate of post release mortality of Atlantic bluefin tuna caused by the proposed C&R recreational fishery.

Commercial tuna fishing vessels from the PEIFA will be chosen to participate in the project by the PEIFA. Fifty fish will be caught using standard methods. Fish will be brought to the boat and tagged "over -the side" of the boat at the surface. Survival of the fish after catch and release will be recorded by electronic tags applied to the fish and programmed to release themselves from the fish at a later date. The tags will transmit data to a satellite upon breaking the surface.

### Summary of Findings/Project Outcome:

**Total Project Cost:** \$445,090

**Funding provided by PEIASC:** \$15,000 over one year

**Project Contact:** Ed Frenette, Executive Director, PEI Fishermen's Association  
Tel: 902-566-4050

### **83. 2010 Herring Fishing Area 16 C, E and G Acoustic Sounding and Variable Mesh Gillnet Herring Project**

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**Proponent:** PEI Fishermen's Association  
**Project Number:** 10-HAR-083  
**Project Status** (Active or Complete): Active  
**Project Start/Completion Date:** September 2010

#### **Project Objective:**

Selected fish harvesters collected important herring data using acoustic sounding equipment as well as variable mesh gillnets in both Herring Fishing Area 16C&E (Tignish, PEI) and HFA 16G (Fishermen's Bank, PEI). Technicians analyzed the information gathered for age-class information as well as spawning bed locations and densities. The 2010 Herring Project contributes to a consistent time series of data collection stretching back to the year 2000. Results are also reflected in DFO's annual 4T assessment of Herring in the Southern Gulf of St. Lawrence. For more information regarding this project including summary maps and annual herring reports please contact the PEIFA at (902) 566-4050 or [researchpeifa@pei.eastlink.ca](mailto:researchpeifa@pei.eastlink.ca) .

#### **Summary of Findings/Project Outcome:**

**Total Project Cost:** \$47,350

**Funding provided by PEIASC:** \$3,850 over one year

**Project Contact:** Mike McGeoghegan, President, PEI Fishermen's Association  
Tel: 902-566-4050

## 84. Support Funding to Attend 2010 ICCAT Conference

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**Proponent:** PEI Fishermen's Association  
**Project Number:** 10-HAR-084  
**Project Status** (Active or Complete): Active  
Project Start/Completion Date: September 2010

### **Project Objective:**

The International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) is the international body that determines the distribution of national Atlantic bluefin tuna quotas to participating countries. In November 2010, the Commission will be holding its deliberative meetings in Paris, France. Through support funding from the PEI Atlantic Shrimp Corporation, the PEI Fishermen's Association has the opportunity of sending one of the co-Chairs of the PEIFA Large Pelagic Advisory Committee as part of the Canadian delegation to the 2010 conference. This fisherman will attend the conference as an observer under the criteria of the Commission adopted in 2005. He will participate in the deliberations by supplying pertinent advice and analysis to Canadian spokespersons on our tuna fishery, as well as, play an important lobbying role with international delegates. The decisions reached in the November meeting will be crucial to the future of Canada's (and PEI's) future quota allocation.

### **Summary of Findings/Project Outcome:**

**Total Project Cost:** \$5,978

**Funding provided by PEIASC:** \$3,390 over one year

**Project Contact:** Mike McGeoghegan, President, PEI Fishermen's Association  
Tel: 902-566-4050