



PEI Atlantic Shrimp Corp. Inc.

Harvester Sector

Projects Summary 2000 - 2012 (part 2)

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

Note: to view projects #1 to 60, please go 'back' to previous page and scroll up to previous link.

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
67. Frozen Storage Facility Concept for Consideration
68. Project Funding PEI Shellfish Association Executive Director
69. Developing a Strategy and Business Plan for the PEI Aquaculture Alliance (PEIAA)
70. Fishing Master IV Home Delivery Project
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
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
79. Support Funding to Attend 2009 ICCAT Conference
80. Development of Aquaculture Management Plans for PEI Aquaculture Areas
81. Atlantic Canada Aquaculture Industry Research & Development Network (ACAIRDN)
82. Bluefin Tuna Catch and Release Trial Fishery
83. 2010 Herring Fishing Area 16 C, E and G Acoustic Sounding and Variable Mesh Gillnet Herring Project
84. Support Funding to Attend 2010 ICCAT Conference

85. PEI Shellfish Association Executive Director Interim Funding **ACTIVE**
86. ACAIRDN 2011 **ACTIVE**
87. Harvester License Rationalization **ACTIVE**
88. Promotional DVD **ACTIVE**
89. Funding Comparison Study **ACTIVE**
90. Forklift Training **ACTIVE**
91. Development and Implementation of an Industry Led Environmental Management System **ACTIVE**
92. 2011 Herring Fishing Area 16 C & E and 16G Acoustic Sounding and Variable Mesh Gillnet Herring Project
93. Defining Optimal Growth Characteristics of Atlantic Halibut on PEI **ACTIVE**
94. Exploring Market Opportunities for the Expanding Prince Edward Island Oyster Industry Phase I: Market Analysis and Marketing Research **ACTIVE**
95. Updating the PEI Aquaculture Alliance Strategic Plan **ACTIVE**
96. Support for an R & D Coordinator and Related Activities **ACTIVE**
97. Strategic Plan Funding **ACTIVE**
98. Interim Executive Director Support **ACTIVE**

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

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.

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

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

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:

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

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

Proponent: PEI Shellfish Association

Project Number: 08-HAR-065

Project Status (Active or Complete): Complete

Project Start/Completion Date: September 2008 - 2011

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:

An extensive program of surveys and experimental manipulations were conducted between 2008 and 2010 in order to fulfill the three objectives of this project. For objective 1, we quantified green crab population numbers and assessed their potential increase in Bedeque Bay and North River. In order to do this, seven sampling sites were established and systematically sampled along the fall of 2008 and the summer and fall of 2009 and 2010. In general, the results of those surveys suggest a consistent increase in the number of green crabs in North River (three sites). In Bedeque Bay, our results indicate the colonization of areas previously not invaded in Dunk River, and an increase (particularly between 2008 and 2009) in the number of green crabs in those areas where green crabs were found since 2008.

For objective 2, we conducted experimental manipulations to assess the impact of green crabs upon American oysters. Using field and laboratory experiments we used four representative sizes of oysters (arbitrarily called small, medium, large and extra large) and exposed them to predation by three representative crab sizes (small, medium and large). Our results indicate that overall predation rates were higher than expected (up to 30 small oysters per crab per day). Such predation rates decreased as the size of the green crabs decreased or the size of the oysters increased. To increase the realism of these experiments we also conducted prey-preference studies where we compare

green crab feeding rates on oysters, blue mussels and soft-shell clams of similar size ranges. Our results show that green crabs consistently prefer soft-shell clams and mussels over oysters but are still able to cause mortality on oysters, particularly at small sizes.

For Objective 3, we conducted an extensive review of the mitigation strategies available in the literature for this and other species of oysters found elsewhere. Such review suggested three main alternatives: the establishment of a fishery for the green crab, the placement of soft-netting or fencing to protect beds, and the identification of an oyster refuge size above which green crabs would no longer produce substantial mortality. In this section of the report we provide evidence suggesting that the first two alternatives have limited applicability or are simply not suitable for the protection of leases or public oyster beds in PEI. On the contrary, we make recommendations regarding the use of the third alternative, oyster refuge sizes. Based on the information gathered under Objective 1 and the size-vulnerability results obtained in Objective 2, we strongly encourage the industry to grow oysters off-bottom until they reach a size of 35 mm SL and apply the same refuge size in every bottom-seeding operation in the province.

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

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

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

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

Proponent: PEI Shellfish Association

Project Number: 08-HAR-068

Project Status (Active or Complete): Complete

Project Start/Completion Date: January 2009 - 2010

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:

The past year saw the completion of the unification of the Shellfish Association with one Board of Directors being elected at their first Annual meeting in March 2011. It is now necessary to secure funds to have the changes incorporated into the Constitution and By Laws (estimated @ \$2000.00).

Shellfishers themselves continue to be preoccupied by low prices and diminishing supplies of product available for harvest. One solution is the expansion and further development of the enhancement program which was seriously challenged by debt. In 2011 this debt was mitigated with the assistance of the Provincial Government and the sale of some surplus Assets.

The closure of Rivers (East River, West River and North River) by rain causing sewage spills at Charlottetown and area continues to threaten the Shellfish industry. These closures represent a real loss of income to Queens County Shellfishers and also causes the relocation of harvesters to areas like Bedeque which are currently overcrowded. The Association has demanded compensation for losses and these discussions are ongoing. Another concern is the lack of slightly undersized oysters which provide for the future. While enhancement is taking place this brood stock is believed to be diminishing. A study should be conducted to investigate this.

We have applied for a project to enhance oyster quality and are currently engaged in discussions with Provincial Environment officials and a private company to remove Sea Lettuce. It is hoped that these projects will help Shellfishers and, if ongoing, will mitigate the financial position of the Association.

The Shellfish Association spent considerable time and Human and financial Resources planning for and taking part in the Annual Shellfish Festival. While this event is laudable in the promotion of Shellfish products and the generation of profit for many participants, it provides virtually no revenue for the Shellfish Association. This situation is currently being addressed.

Another, on going project, is the transfer of ownership of the Hurds Point trailer Park from the Central Development Agency to the P.E.I. Shellfish Association. This transfer will be complete in August and will involve some transfer of past profits (approximately \$3000.00) plus future profits between \$3000.00 and \$5000.00 per year

The Association has joined the Canadian Council of Professional Fish Harvesters and continues to seek funds for training. Funding for training may be available this fall. Another interesting aspect of our membership in the C.C.P.F.H. is their pilot projects on Eco Certification. This could be a valuable marketing tool for oysters and other shellfish.

The Association has applied for funds from the P.E.I. Atlantic Shrimp and the Provincial Department of Fisheries, Aquaculture and Rural Development to retain it's executive Director. The Association believes that the services of it's Executive Director are necessary to oversee on going projects as well as to to continue to seek other sources of funding on an on going basis.

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)

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

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

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.

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- 2010

Proponent: PEI Aquaculture Alliance
Project Number: 09-HAR-072
Project Status: complete
Project Start/Completion Date: May 2009 - 2010

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:

The success and impact that ACAIRDN has had is clearly demonstrated by the number of projects and R&D dollars invested, over \$20 million since 2002. The PEI Aquaculture Alliance R&D Coordinator (RDC) has been involved to varying degrees in ten different projects in 2009-10. Also five project and workshop proposals were prepared through the year. Two workshops were held in March 2010, "Expansion of the PEI Oyster Aquaculture Industry and the continued development of off-bottom Oyster culture. Opportunities, Barriers and Developments" and "The AIF Technical Day". Final reports are available from these workshops upon request. The R&D priorities of the PEI aquaculture industry are available from the RDC and have been communicated to partner groups such as DFARD, DFO and other funders.

In June of 2009 ACAIRDN held a conference call with CAIA (the national industry association) about their potential role in CAIA's proposed certification benchmarking project. The RDC was also responsible for reviewing the draft WWF bivalve aquaculture standards and coordinating the PEIAA response.

The RDC meets frequently with industry members, including monthly board meetings and AGMs, and also with research partners and industry suppliers. He also represents the interests of association members at a number of committees and working groups.

Outreach to other Aquaculture Industry Associations, to increase national collaboration and communication, included the Aquaculture Association of NS, NB Salmon Growers Association, Newfoundland Aquaculture Industry Association, NB Professional Shellfish Growers

Association, Northern Ontario Aquaculture, Maine Aquaculture Association, BC Shellfish Growers Association and Interprovincial Partnership for Sustainable Freshwater Aquaculture Development.

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

Proponent: PEI Aquaculture Alliance
Project Number: 09-HAR-073
Project Status (Active or Complete): Complete
Project Start/Completion Date: May 2009 - 2011

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:

Blythe Murray of CPR First Aid and Safety Services provided the training. Materials were supplied by the instructor and prepared for use in the course. A participant's workbook was prepared and a test administered at the end of the course. A total of two courses were held with 41 people trained and issued with their standard First Aid certificates along with Class C Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation Certificates.

Location	Date	Attendees
Kensington	July 2009	28
Charlottetown	January 2011	13
Total		41

The ability to provide safety and first aid training to aquaculturists is of great benefit to the industry as a whole. This allows for safer working conditions and improved professionalization of the industry. Many of our attendees expressed the importance of this course.

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

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)

Proponent: PEI Aquaculture Alliance

Project Number: 09-HAR-075

Project Status (Active or Complete): Complete

Project Start/Completion Date: August 2009 - 2010

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:

Crystal McDonald of Carpe Diem Consultants was contracted to perform this review. A Review Committee was formed, made up of partner stakeholders such as DFARD, DFO, TC-NWPA, EC, CFIA etc, and a notice was sent to all SAECOP signatories that the COP was open for review. A draft update was sent to all signatories for review and the final updated code was distributed in March of 2010.

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

Proponent: PEI Shellfish Association

Project Number: 09-HAR-076

Project Status (Active or Complete): Complete

Project Start/Completion Date: August 2009 - October 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

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

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

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

Proponent: PEI Aquaculture Alliance
Project Number: 09-HAR-080
Project Status (Active or Complete): Complete
Project Start/Completion Date: January 2010 - 2011

Project Objective:

The purpose of this project was to develop an Aquaculture Management Plan (AMP) for Foxley/Trout River system in response to the PEI Lease Management Board (LMB) decision that certain specific shellfish aquaculture areas would require an AMP to be in place before any further lease conversion applications could be considered. Carpe Diem Consultants were contracted to carry out this project. A survey and notice was distributed to all Foxley/Trout River lease and spat license holders. Consultations with these and other concerned stakeholders took place in the spring and summer of 2010. The report was developed in draft, presented to all leaseholders and consulted stakeholders for approval. It was then presented to the LMB for consideration of the report recommendations.

Summary of Findings/Project Outcome:

Based on the stakeholder feedback and discussions with oyster growers and fishers that took place during this project the following mission and vision statements have been developed.

Mission: To protect and strengthen the ecological, cultural and economical benefits provided by the Foxley and Trout River oyster aquaculture industry while addressing any issues or risks that these same activities may pose to the sustainability of the estuary and surrounding communities.

Vision: The Foxley/Trout River oyster growers will market a superior product that has been grown with due care and attention to the health of the estuary, quality of the shellfish, and needs of the other resource stakeholders and adjacent communities.

For a full list of the recommendations contained within the Aquaculture Management Plan for Foxley/Trout River please contact the PEI Aquaculture Alliance.

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)

Proponent: PEI Aquaculture Alliance
Project Number: 10-HAR-081
Project Status (Active or Complete): Complete
Project Start/Completion Date: April 2010 - 2011

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:

The role of the R&D Coordinator and the ACAIRDN network is to foster the development of industry applicable research and development projects, represent the industry at a variety of forums to communicate R&D priorities and to collaborate within Atlantic Canada to develop projects of regional significance. Throughout 2010-11 the RDC met with over 50 different growers in relation to developing R&D projects, the Oyster development program (SOAR) and relating information on funding opportunities. The RDC represents the association on a number of committees and working groups. Involvement at this level is a key component of the communicating the industry's needs, as well as fostering projects that match up with current R&D Priorities. Also the RDC has assisted in the development of at least seven applications for research projects and workshops, addressing both industry and specific association member priorities.

The impact that ACAIRDN has had is demonstrated by 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. In 2010 - 2011 there were 10 new projects across the region and 21 ongoing, with a total budget of \$5.4 million. The RDC has been involved to varying degrees in ten projects on PEI and has organised three successful workshops.

Finally the network has communicated with other aquaculture industry associations (e.g. AANS, NAIA, PEIAA, ACFFA, IPSFAD, NBPSGA, BCSGA, BCSFA), has produced a total of 4 newsletter issues and set up a Facebook page at the beginning of the year. All four RDCs now have “work” Facebook pages and the ACAIRDN group page has 47 “friends”. All members can post news articles and links of general interest.

Total Project Cost: \$

Funding provided by PEIASC: \$5,018.42 over one year

Project Contact:

Jarrod Gunn-McQuillan, PEI Aquaculture Alliance
Tel:902-368-2757

82. Bluefin Tuna Catch and Release Trial Fishery

Proponent: PEI Fishermen's Association

Project Number: 10-HAR-082

Project Status (Active or Complete): Complete

Project Start/Completion Date: April 2010 - 2011

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:

The Prince Edward Island Fishermen's Association has completed a trial fishery project attaching electronic tracking tags to 59 Bluefin Tuna in waters off P.E.I.

Twenty licensed tuna fishermen and their crew from across P.E.I. participated in a two week trial catch and release fishery commencing in August 2010. These fishers caught 59 Bluefin using barbless circle hooks. The fish were fitted with Pop Up Satellite Tags and released to continue their feeding and migration.

Background:

A prospective Live-Release fishery for the sport fishing market has great economic potential for increasing revenues to licenced Bluefin fishers. The objective of the project was to test the feasibility of a Catch & Release fishery for Bluefin to operate alongside the existing fishery without seriously impacting quota share for fishers harvesting Bluefin for the culinary market.

Project Results

As a result of the project, the mortality rate for live release of Bluefin Tuna in a prospective catch and release fishery has been established at 3.4%. A full description of the project is provided in the draft report, "Fate of Atlantic Bluefin Tuna (*Thynnus thynnus*) in an experimental recreational catch-and-release fishery", prepared by Dr. Michael Stokesbury, Canada Research Chair, Acadia University, Dr. John Neilson, Department of Fisheries and

Oceans, Dr. Edward Susko, Dalhousie University and Dr. Steven Cooke, Carleton University. The project results provide a scientific measure of the biological impact of live release fishing on the stock of Bluefin in the Western Atlantic.

According to a statement released by Faith Scattolon, Head of the Canadian Delegation to the 2010 meeting, Nov. 17-27, of ICCAT (the International Committee for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas) "this research will put Canada in the forefront of developing responsible recreational fisheries by ensuring that incidental mortality associated with catch and release activities is explicitly included in the management of the resource."

The team conducting the project included Dr. John Neilson with DFO Science, Dr. Michael Stokesbury of Acadia University and Mr. Pat O'Neill, consultant to the PEI Fishermen's Association, under direction from the PEIFA Tuna Committee Co-Chairs, Walter Bruce, Kenny Drake and Doug Fraser.

Funding was provided by the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency, the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, the PEI Department of Fisheries, Aquaculture and Rural Development, PEI Department of Innovation & Advanced Learning. The PEI Atlantic Shrimp Corp. provided equity funding which facilitated the other grants to the project

Total Project Cost: \$445,090

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

Project Contact: Ian MacPherson, 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

Proponent: PEI Fishermen's Association

Project Number: 10-HAR-083

Project Status (Active or Complete): Complete

Project Start/Completion Date: September 2010 - 2011

Project Objective:

This project conducted herring fleet spawning bed acoustics and variable mesh gillnet sampling in conjunction with DFO Science during the 2010 fall inshore herring fishery in HFA 16 E & G.

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 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.

Total Project Cost: \$47,350

Funding provided by PEIASC: \$3,850 over one year

Project Contact: Ian MacPherson, Executive Director
PEI Fishermen's Association
Tel: 902-566-4050

84. Support Funding to Attend 2010 ICCAT Conference

Proponent: PEI Fishermen's Association

Project Number: 10-HAR-084

Project Status (Active or Complete): complete

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:

This project supported 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 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: \$5,978

Funding provided by PEIASC: \$3,390 over one year

Project Contact: Ian MacPherson, Executive Director
PEI Fishermen's Association
Tel: 902-566-4050

85. Executive Director Interim Funding

Proponent: PEI Shellfish Association
Project Number: 11-HAR-085
Project Status (Active or Complete): Active
Project Start/Completion Date: May 2011 -

Project Objective:

This project enables the P.E.I. Shellfish Association to retain the services of their Executive Director on a part time basis. The goal of this project is to achieve financial self sufficiency for the Association by engaging in projects with administrative and other financial benefits.

The Association also wishes to strengthen its membership base and support of shellfishers. The Executive Director will also engage Shellfishers to promote the Association thereby gaining support for enhancement and other projects.

Summary of Findings/Project Outcome:

Total Project Cost: \$36,265

Funding provided by PEIASC: \$16,265 over one year

Project Contact: Clifford Bernard, President
Phone: 902-831-3374

86. ACAIRDN 2011

Proponent: PEI Aquaculture Alliance
Project Number: 11-HAR-086
Project Status: Complete
Project Start/Completion Date: May 2011 - 2012

Project Objective:

The objective of this initiative is to continue to support the Research and Development Coordinator (RDC) position within the PEI Aquaculture Alliance and its participation in the Atlantic Canada Aquaculture Industry Research and Development Network (ACAIRDN). The RDC acts as a technical resource for all industry members in matters related to research, development and adoption of innovative technologies. By continually consulting with association members activities are focused industry priorities. For the 2011-2012 project year these include Science support for the adoption of third party certification programs, Invasive Species, Sea Duck Predation and Technology advancement for farming.

Summary of Findings/Project Outcome:

The Research and Development Coordinators (RDC) act as a technical resource within the industry association, available to all association members. The linkage of a network of RDC's, the Atlantic Canada Aquaculture Industry Research and Development Network (ACAIRDN), enables the industry associations to work more closely together to develop and deliver projects of mutual interest that lead to significant improvements for the industry.

In 2011-12 the PEIAA RDC has been involved in preparing four project applications, managing seven projects to varying degrees and organising four industry workshops. They also represented the PEIAA on multiple different technical committees and working groups and assisted over fifty growers with projects, funding enquiries and program applications and claims. ACAIRDN have hosted three national aquaculture R&D conference calls and published two e-bulletins to over 500 contacts. They also maintain a Facebook page with over 50 members.

Total Project Cost: \$66,192

Funding provided by PEIASC: \$5,635 over one year

Project Contact: Jarrod Gunn-McQuillan, PEI Aquaculture Alliance
Tel:902-368-2757

87. Harvester License Rationalization

Proponent: PEI Fishermen's Association
Project Number: 11-HAR-087
Project Status (Active or Complete): Active
Project Start/Completion Date: May 2011 -

Project Objective:

Rationalization, or the permanent retirement of core fishing licenses, has been the policy of the PEIFA since 2004. With the downturn in lobster landings and the subsequent movement of fishing fleets from the central portion of the Northumberland Strait to harbours in western PEI, the reduction of licenses has been seen as necessary for the economic survival of Island Fishermen.

Rationalization programs are in various stages of completion for LFA 24 and 26A. LFA has completed their initial program and is assessing the results.

These proposals involve the development of:

- a) Rationalization and Sustainability plans
- b) Conduct membership information meetings and votes with the LFA membership
- c) Selection of members for buy out
- d) Submission of these plans to DFO for approval
- e) Co ordinate implementation of the plans when approved

Additional travel and meetings are required to complete phase one projects and prepare for phase two funding requests.

The object of this proposal is to cover the extensive travel and meeting costs for the Advisory Board members of these groups.

Summary of Findings/Project Outcome:

Total Project Cost: \$45,000

Funding provided by PEIASC: \$30,000 over one year

Project Contact: Ian MacPherson, Executive Director
Tel: 902-566-4050

88. Promotional DVD

Proponent: PEI Fishermen's Association
Project Number: 11-HAR-088
Project Status (Active or Complete): Active
Project Start/Completion Date: May 2011 -

Project Objective:

This project entails the development of a promotional DVD that will help promote the Lobster Fishery on Prince Edward Island. A professional video company will develop a storyline and narrative that highlights the sustainable practices that are used for harvesting lobster on PEI. The intent is to depict the history of our fishery through interviews with selected fishermen capturing the rich past of the fishery. In addition to actual on boat lobster harvesting in our pristine surroundings, the impact and scope of the Lobster industry in PEI will be highlighted. This video is an excellent opportunity to highlight the uniqueness of our smaller local lobster and to celebrate the differences that this high quality lobster brings.

Summary of Findings/Project Outcome :

Total Project Cost: \$10,000

Funding provided by PEIASC: \$5,000 over one year

Project Contact: Ian MacPherson, Executive Director
Tel: 902-566-4050

89. Funding Comparison Study

Proponent: PEI Fishermen's Association
Project Number: 11-HAR-089
Project Status (Active or Complete): Active
Project Start/Completion Date: May 2011 -

Project Objective:

The project is a funding comparison that will compare current PEIFA programs with similar programs in the PEI agricultural and fishing sectors in other Provinces. These programs being compared are promotion and marketing, disaster relief programs and business plan funding for New Entrants.

Summary of Findings/Project Outcome:

Total Project Cost: \$4,800

Funding provided by PEIASC: \$4,800 over one year

Project Contact: Ian MacPherson, Executive Director
Tel: 902-566-4050

90. Forklift Training Project

Proponent: PEI Aquaculture Alliance
Project Number: 11-HAR-090
Project Status (Active or Complete):
Project Start/Completion Date: TBD

Project Objective:

The objective of this project is to partially fund up to 30 staff members from PEI aquaculture businesses to successfully complete a Forklift Operators course, a legal requirement for forklift operators. Professional development of “on-shore” staff will improve the workplace Health and Safety of these employers (both processors and growers).

Summary of Findings/Project Outcome:

Total Project Cost: \$2,470

Funding provided by PEIASC: \$ 1,790

Project Contact: Greg Fallon, Executive Director
PEI Aquaculture Alliance

91. Development and Implementation of an Industry Led Environmental Management System

Proponent: PEI Aquaculture Alliance
Project Number: 11-HAR-091
Project Status (Active or Complete): Active
Project Start/Completion Date: September 2011 -

Project Objective:

The objective of this project is to advance the PEI Aquaculture Industry towards successful adoption of a third party sustainability certification. This will be done by addressing key items necessary for growers to pass the audit requirements of such a certification. The objective of Phase 1 will be to engage the PEI Industry in discussions focused on third-party certification and environmental management systems for the purpose of designing an industry-wide strategy.

Summary of Findings/Project Outcome:

Total Project Cost: \$8,750

Funding provided by PEIASC: \$4,375 over one year

Project Contact: Greg Fallon, Executive Director, PEI Aquaculture Alliance

92. 2011 Herring Fishing Area 16 C & E and 16G Acoustic Sounding and Variable Mesh Gillnet Herring Project

Proponent: PEI Fishermen's Association
Project Number: 11-HAR-092
Project Status (Active or Complete): Active
Project Start/Completion Date: September 2011 -

Project Objective:

Summary of Findings/Project Outcome:

Total Project Cost: \$60,200

Funding provided by PEIASC: \$5,350 over one year

Project Contact:
Ian MacPherson, Executive Director
Tel: 902-566-4050

93. Defining Optimal Growth Characteristics of Atlantic Halibut on PEI

Proponent: PEI Aquaculture Alliance
Project Number: 11-HAR-093
Project Status (Active or Complete): Active
Project Start/Completion Date: September 2011 -

Project Objective:

This project will determine the management and environmental factors required to reduce the time necessary to grow Atlantic halibut to market size and develop an accurate growth prediction model in order to further develop the halibut aquaculture industry on PEI.

Summary of Findings/Project Outcome:

Total Project Cost: \$62,700

Funding provided by PEIASC: \$3,830 over one year

Project Contact:

Greg Fallon, Executive Director PEI Aquaculture Alliance
Tel:902-368-2757

94. Exploring Market Opportunities for the Expanding Prince Edward Island Oyster Industry Phase 1: Market Analysis and Marketing Research

Proponent: PEI Aquaculture Alliance
Project Number: 11-HAR-094
Project Status (Active or Complete): Active
Project Start/Completion Date: September 2011 -

Project Objective:

This project will conduct an analysis of current oyster markets and undertake marketing research to investigate consumer attitudes towards Island oysters. A market analysis report, which will provide recommendations for future marketing efforts for PEI oysters, will be prepared.

Summary of Findings/Project Outcome:

Total Project Cost: \$63,700

Funding provided by PEIASC: \$9,700 over one year

Project Contact:

Greg Fallon, Executive Director PEI Aquaculture Alliance
Tel:902-368-2757

95. Updating the PEI Aquaculture Alliance Strategic Plan

Proponent: PEI Aquaculture Alliance
Project Number: 12-HAR-095
Project Status (Active or Complete): Active
Project Start/Completion Date: April 2012 -

Project Objective:

Summary of Findings/Project Outcome:

Total Project Cost: \$

Funding provided by PEIASC: \$6,500 over one year

Project Contact:
Ann Worth, Executive Director PEI Aquaculture Alliance
Tel:902-368-2757

96. Support for a R & D Coordinator and Related Activities

Proponent: PEI Aquaculture Alliance
Project Number: 12-HAR-096
Project Status (Active or Complete): Active
Project Start/Completion Date: April 2012 -

Project Objective:

Summary of Findings/Project Outcome:

Total Project Cost: \$

Funding provided by PEIASC: \$5,000 over one year

Project Contact:

Ann Worth, Executive Director PEI Aquaculture Alliance
Tel:902-368-2757

97. Strategic Plan Funding

Proponent: PEI Fishermen's Association
Project Number: 12-HAR-097
Project Status (Active or Complete): Active
Project Start/Completion Date: April 2012 -

Project Objective:

Summary of Findings/Project Outcome:

Total Project Cost: \$

Funding provided by PEIASC: \$10,000 over one year

Project Contact:

Ian MacPherson, Executive Director
Tel: 902-566-4050

98. Interim Executive Director Support

Proponent: PEI Shellfish Association
Project Number: 12-HAR-098
Project Status (Active or Complete): Active
Project Start/Completion Date: April 2012 -

Project Objective:

Summary of Findings/Project Outcome:

Total Project Cost: \$

Funding provided by PEIASC: \$10,000 over one year

Project Contact:

Clifford Bernard, President
Phone: 902-831-3374