

# French-Language Services First Annual Progress Report

*Department of Agriculture  
Nova Scotia Fisheries and Aquaculture*

## **Department of Agriculture/Nova Scotia Fisheries and Aquaculture - Annual Progress Report**

### **Introduction**

The French-Language Services Annual Progress Report for the Department of Agriculture/Nova Scotia Fisheries and Aquaculture is to be prepared annually pursuant to section 7 of the *French-Language Services Act*, which took effect December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2004. This Act requires the Minister of Acadian Affairs to submit to the Governor in Council an annual report listing the French-language initiatives, programs and services provided by the Government to the Acadian and francophone communities. As such, it is a requirement that our departments provide an overview of all initiatives and services undertaken so that it might be consolidated by the Office of Acadian Affairs as part of the Minister's report.

2007 marks the first year for a French-language Services Annual Report and we look back not only at this past fiscal year, but to the passing of the French-language Services Act on December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2004.

The French-language Services priority and goals/objectives, as outlined in the Business Plans for the Department of Agriculture/Nova Scotia Fisheries and Aquaculture, are listed in the following pages. In order to provide for easier consolidation by the Office of Acadian Affairs, items undertaken by our departments during this time frame has been provided with their own header, followed by a description of the activity and the subsequent outcome or results. Individual achievements can be found under the goal/objective to which they are applicable.

As knowledge of the French-language services available continues to grow, so too do the requests for translation services and training. The French-language Services Plan for 2007-2008 is underway.

*Kim Ellamay Baldwin*  
*French-language Service Coordinator*  
*Department of Agriculture/Nova Scotia Fisheries and Aquaculture*

**Priority - Continue to implement the French-language Services Plan, in accordance with the French Language Services Act.**

**Goal/Objective - Continue to participate on the government's interdepartmental French-language Services Coordinating Committee.**

Committee Membership

To date, three department staff members, all from the Policy and Planning Division, have been involved with committees dealing with French-language issues. Their activities include serving as the French-language Service Coordinator for the Departments, taking part in the Regulations consultations, sitting on the Corporate French-language Strategy Sub-Committee, and providing assistance to the Office of Acadian Affairs on the Regulations to the French-language Services Act. Currently, the French-language Service Coordinator for the Departments is Ms. Kim Baldwin.

**Goal/Objective - Continue to increase French-language service capacity in the departments through language training.**

Second Language Training

According to survey results released in June 2004; of the 386 Department of Agriculture and Fisheries staff who responded, 271 stated they had no French-language skills, 89 stated they had basic skills, 21 stated they had intermediate, 5 advanced, and 10 stated they were currently providing services in French.

Since this time, about 20 staff members have taken part in second language training, both on Provincial Pilot programs and on Federal Government courses. The breakdown of these training numbers is approximately as follows:

- 10 individuals in beginner training,
- 8 individuals in intermediate training
- 2 individuals whose course level is unknown

**Goal/Objective - Continue to increase the availability of French-language services to clients through bilingual documentation and access to French speaking staff.**

Bonjour Kits

Nine kits were distributed to staff within the Department of Agriculture/Nova Scotia Fisheries and Aquaculture who provide French-language services. These staff include the department's Receptionist, Director of Policy & Planning, Secretary for the Minister

of Agriculture, two Fish Reps in regional offices, a Fish Biologist with Inland Fisheries, the President of the Nova Scotia Agricultural College (NSAC), the Manager of Lab Services, and the Director of Quality Evaluation.

### Signage

Thanks in part to funding assistance through the Office of Acadian Affairs, bilingual signage for Nova Scotia Fisheries and Aquaculture is now in place in both our Arachat and Yarmouth offices (photos provided below). Staff in these regional offices are bilingual and provide French-language services.



*Yarmouth*



*Arachat*

### Organizational Charts

Earlier this year, we responded to a written request from the province of Quebec for copies of our Departments organizational charts (translation services for these charts was provided by the Office of Acadian Affairs). Thanks to these translations, we now have organizational charts available in both English and French which will be posted on our renewed websites when they are rolled out in May 2007.

### Innovations in Fisheries and Aquaculture Brochure

This brochure, which had previously been available in English only, was updated and translated into French. The brochure is available at Fisheries and Aquaculture Regional Offices and is distributed at fish and seafood trade shows.

This brochure is produced by the Innovations in Fisheries and Aquaculture Section in Nova Scotia Fisheries and Aquaculture. It contains information on the importance of the coastal resources industries, together with four core and two supplemental funding programs which provide financial assistance and field support to fisheries and aquaculture clients.

### Barrier Free Fishing Brochure

The text for our Barrier Free Fishing Brochure (Possibilités d'accès facile à la pêche sportive en Nouvelle-Écosse) was translated by the Office of Acadian Affairs in November 2006. This is a brochure listing fishing locations that elderly persons, or persons with disabilities can easily access and what facilities are offered in each of these locations (wheelchair accessible washrooms, picnic areas, etc.). This brochure has since been formatted, and is now available on our website at [http://www.gov.ns.ca/fish/sportfishing/extension/BarrierFreeBrochure\\_Fr.pdf](http://www.gov.ns.ca/fish/sportfishing/extension/BarrierFreeBrochure_Fr.pdf)

### Lab Services Fee Schedules Brochures

At this time, the text for three Lab Services Brochures (*Analytical Fee Schedules, Fee Schedule Changes - Non Registered Farmers, and Fee Schedule Changes - Registered Farmers*) has been translated into French. A fourth brochure on Dairy is under development. All four brochures will be released this summer, with electronic versions available this spring on our new website.

### Louisiana Project

*Expo Acadie 2006* was an international trade mission to Louisiana in conjunction with *le Conseil de développement économique de la N-É* to promote NS food products, expertise in Information Technology (IT), construction/environment, and arts/crafts, which was planned for April 2006.

In preparation of the *Expo*, the Minister of Acadian Affairs and, at that time, of Agriculture and Fisheries, travelled to Louisiana in February 2005 on a trade mission (this visit was reported on in an article in the 4 March 2005 edition of *Le Courrier*, which can be viewed at [http://lecourrier.com/index.cfm?Sequence\\_No=24745&Id=24745&niveau=2&Repertoire\\_No=1331007414&Voir=journal](http://lecourrier.com/index.cfm?Sequence_No=24745&Id=24745&niveau=2&Repertoire_No=1331007414&Voir=journal)). Unfortunately, due to the disastrous repercussions of Hurricane Katrina, the *Expo* did not occur.

Although there has been no subsequent activity on this project since the hurricane, our Marketing section is currently involved with a transportation/distribution study for Atlantic Canada looking into the shipment of goods into the Eastern Seaboard and Louisiana from Atlantic Canada. There are no firm plans in place at this time for reviving the *Expo*, however, this may occur at a later date.

### French Communications

Between December 2004 and March 2007, communications staff prepared Ministerial speeches in French for delivery in French speaking areas as well as French-language advertisements for public consultations in the Yarmouth area. The departments also participated in the preparation of a number of bilingual ads, brochures and news releases in conjunction with the Federal government for various joint funding programs and announcements.

### Regional Coordination

Our Coastal Resource Coordinator has been working with the Saint Mary's Bay Resource Centre in Meteghan to promote delivery of French services to the fishing industry. Initiatives include the Marine Waste Steering Committee, the Oil Spill Contingency Plan and Marine Data Base Committee for the Bay of Fundy/Saint Mary's Bay, and the Integrated Coastal Planning and Zoning for Saint Mary's Bay.

### Production Insurance Meeting

In July of 2006, the Nova Scotia Crop and Livestock Insurance Commission was host to the national Production Insurance General Managers Meeting in Pictou, NS. As this was a national meeting, there was a requirement that all presentations be in both official languages. There were presentations by Agriculture Canada staff, guest speakers, and presentations on provincial updates for each province.

As the host of this event, the Crop and Livestock Insurance Commission was responsible for ensuring that the agendas and all presentations were translated into French, and for providing simultaneous translation for those in attendance.

### Nova Scotia Agricultural College Policy

Some divisions of the Nova Scotia Agricultural College (NSAC) identified several auxiliary services as areas that could benefit if made available in French to students who request them. Work was done with the NSAC administration to determine an appropriate application of the French-language services policy for the college, resulting in the development of a French-language services policy for the NSAC which has been implemented.

### Angling Regulations

The *Angler's Handbook and Summary of Regulations* (Le Guide du pêcheur à la ligne de la Nouvelle-Écosse et résumé des règlements) is a document produced by Nova Scotia Fisheries and Aquaculture providing information on various items of interest and importance to anglers. These topics include:

- Licenses
- Fees
- Limits
- Seasons
- Areas
- Etc.

This document is available on our website in both official languages, the French version being located at [http://www.gov.ns.ca/fish/sportfishing/angling/french\\_trans.doc](http://www.gov.ns.ca/fish/sportfishing/angling/french_trans.doc) .