



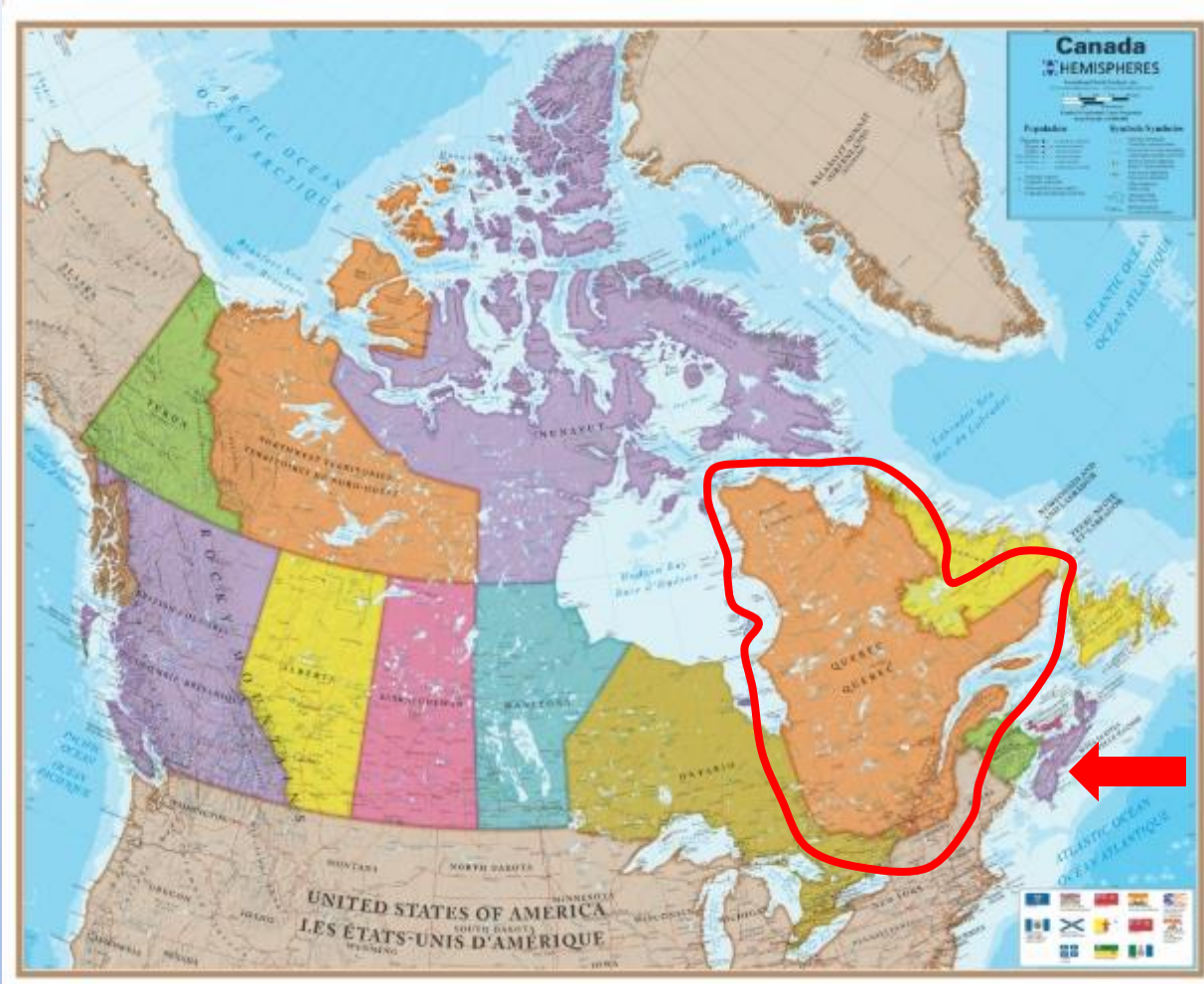
Fisheries in the Gulf of St Lawrence (Canada) by seven Innu communities

Halifax, May 29th 2018

Claire Pédrot, Agence Mamu Innu Kaikusseht

« Together Innu fishermen agency »





https://www.maptown.com/Canada_Laminated_Wall_Map_p/006055.htm



<http://www.autochtones.gouv.qc.ca/nations/cartes/carte-11n7.pdf>

A bit of history

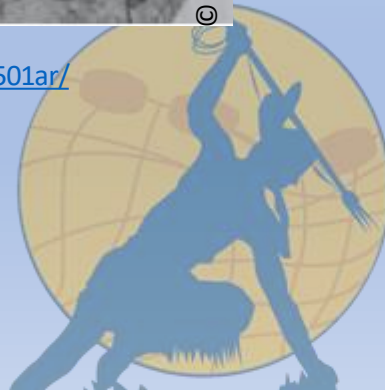


<http://www.nametauinnu.ca/fr/lexique/natau-shatsheueu>



<https://www.erudit.org/fr/revues/raq/2010-v40-n1-2-raq5005322/1007501ar/>

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© Vancouver sun

1990: Sparrow decision

- R. C. Sparrow has been arrested in 1984
- “The Supreme Court concluded that members of the Musqueam band had an aboriginal right to fish, particularly for food, social and ceremonial purposes.”
 - Conservation first
 - Fish cannot be sell

➔ **Ancestral rights**

<https://bdp.parl.ca/content/lop/researchpublications/bp341-e.htm>





1992 : Aboriginal Fisheries Strategy

Objectives:

- To provide a framework for the management of fishing by Aboriginal groups for food, social and ceremonial purposes.
- To provide Aboriginal groups with an opportunity to participate in the management of fisheries, thereby improving conservation, management and enhancement of the resource.
- To contribute to the economic self-sufficiency of Aboriginal communities.
- To provide a foundation for the development of self-government agreements and treaties.
- To improve the fisheries management skills and capacity of Aboriginal groups.

➔ **Agreements for communal fisheries (livelihoods only)**

➔ **Acquisition of the first fishing boats**





1999: Marshall ruling

- Donald Marshall Jr. has been arrested in 1993
- He claimed he was allowed to catch and sell fish by virtue of a treaty signed with the British Crown
- The Supreme Court of Canada confirmed that Donald Marshall Jr. had a treaty right to catch and sell fish

→ Recognition of Aboriginals rights to participate in fisheries and to be able to sell their catches

<https://www.aadnc-aandc.gc.ca/eng/1100100028614/1100100028615>





The Aboriginal Aquatic Resources and Oceans Management Program (AAROM)

➔ It provides funding to qualifying Aboriginal groups to establish aquatic resource and oceans management bodies

<http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/fm-gp/aboriginal-autochtones/aarom-pagrao/index-eng.htm>

➔ 2006 : Agence Mamu Innu Kaikusseht (AMIK)

- Sectors of activity:
 - Fisheries management
 - Specific trainings
 - Environment & marine conservation
 - Traditional knowledge
 - Research & development





UASHAT MAK
MANI-UTENAM



EKUANITSHIT



NUTASHKUAN



UNAMEN-SHIPU



PAKUA-SHIPU



PESSAMIT



ESSIPIT





In 2016

- Aboriginal fisheries = 16,6% of Quebec province fisheries (source, DFO)
- Innu managers for fisheries are part of committees (fishing industries, governments, scientists etc.)
- Sciences & biomass evaluations
- Innu
 - 144 licenses of fishing (source, DFO)
 - 21 fishing boats
 - At least 9 species are being fished
 - From 0 to 1/3 of snow crab licenses in some fishing areas
 - Own 5 of 9 fishing licenses for the Iceland scallop





- Some communities own their own fish shops
- Some are partners in seafood processing factories
- Development of fisheries has been important:
 - Quebec's Aboriginal fishing companies are the second largest employers in the communities after the band councils (Charest, 2012)
- It's not only about fishing anymore
 - Economic development
 - Transformation
 - Marketing
 - Maintenance & repair companies





Specific trainings

- From 2006 to 2016:
 - 16 different type of trainings offered
 - For fishermen and managers
 - 128 Innus have been trained
 - 8 innu obtained a captain license
 - Amongst all Innu fishing boats, 6 have a 100% Innu crew





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Looking at

- Aquaculture
- Development of « vertical integration » : from the ocean to the table
- Development of « horizontal integration »
- Adaptation of fisheries to climate change & loss/new species
- New fishing technics
- Conservation and marine protected areas



Commercial but not individual

- Fishing boats don't belong to captains but to the communities.
- The community (band council) decides where the money goes: education, roads, elders etc.





Utshashumek^u project: Atlantic salmon conservation through innu traditional knowledge

Goals:

- Build the bridge between traditional knowledge and science
- Sharing traditional knowledge on salmon
- Youth awareness of salmon biology and threats to its survival
- Accountability of the whole community towards salmon conservation





Livelihoods

- Share
- Respect the animal
- Don't waste it
- Fish only what you need





A duty for the next seven generations

Every year I am releasing the first snow crab cage that we take up because in my believes, I was taught to always leave the first animal or the first plant that we see and take only the second one to always make sure that resource will always be there for the next seven generations.

Omer St-Onge, captain



Tshinashkumitin

(« I am giving you a goose »)

Thank you

Claire Pédrot

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