



Coasters Association Inc.

*Needs Assessment
& Identification
of Opportunities*



*Fishery
Assistance
Report*

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Sponsored by:



Fisheries & Oceans
Canada

Pêches et Océans
Canada

INTRODUCTION

Funds were received from the Department of Fisheries and Oceans to assess the needs and identify the opportunities of the fishers and plant workers affected by the closure of the crab in Zone 13, and the closure of the cod in the Municipality of Bonne Esperance and Blanc Sablon.

With the moratorium imposed on the cod and the closure of the snow crab fishery, the fishers and plant workers were consulted to obtain their views, which will provide a working tool for long term planning for the Coasters Association, Fishermen's Committees, Municipalities, and Government officials.

The first phase of the fishery project began on January 12th, 2004, and finished on May 29th, 2004. The second phase began on May 31st, 2004, and finished on October 1st, 2004. The objective of the project was to identify the issues, opportunities, and the individual needs of the fishers and plant workers affected by the closure of the crab in Zone 13, and inshore fishers affected by the closure of the cod in the Municipality of Bonne Esperance and Blanc Sablon.

A work plan/activity plan was developed with the Consultant, Bill Pardy, Cornella Maurice, the Executive Director of the Coasters Association, and Priscilla Griffin, a representative from the Municipality of Bonne Esperance, and approved by the resource people (listed on page 2-3).

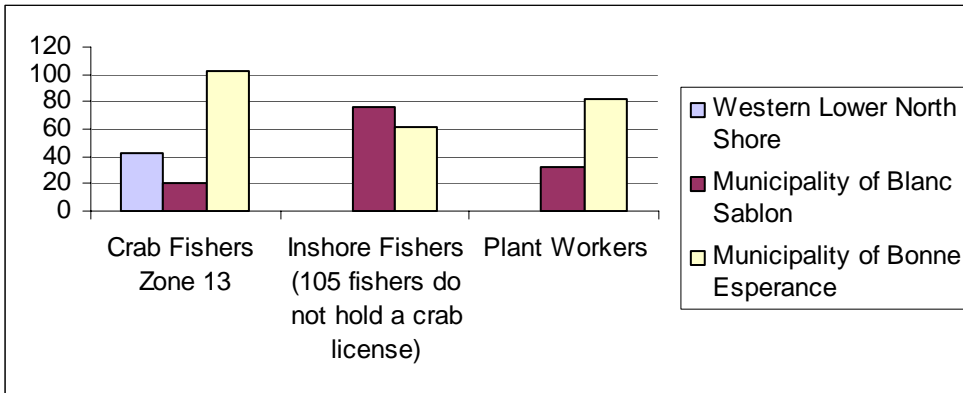
The list of fishers for zone 13, inshore fishers, and plant workers for the Municipality of Bonne Esperance and Blanc Sablon was updated. The listing of committees (approximately 18) of the fishers, plant workers, and harbor authority was updated.

The following is the stats of the fishers and plant workers.

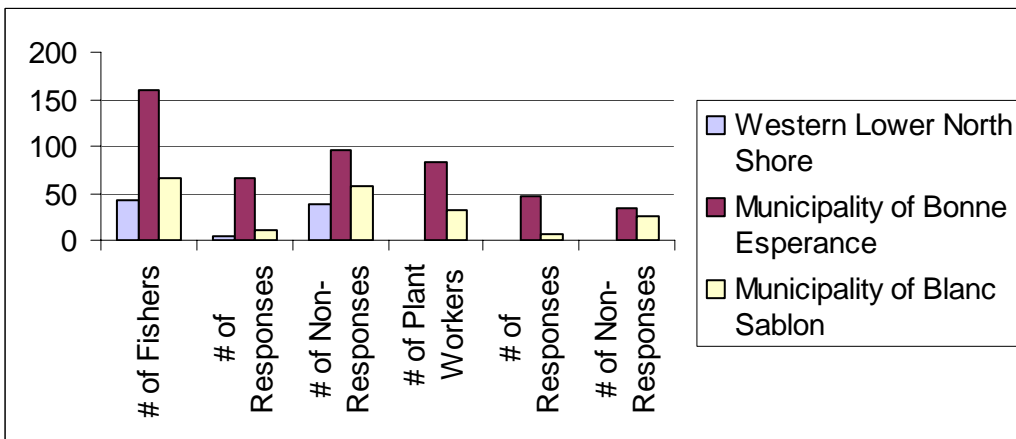
- Crab fishers in Zone 13 – 165 (43 from the West, 20 from the Municipality of Blanc Sablon, and 102 from the Municipality of Bonne Esperance).
- Inshore fishers – 138, 76 from the Municipality of Bonne Esperance, and 62 from the Municipality of Blanc Sablon (105 fishers do not hold a crab license)
- Plant workers in the Municipality of Bonne Esperance – 82
- Plant workers in the Municipality of Blanc Sablon – 32

For a total of 384 fishers and plant workers.

The following chart lists the number of fishers and plant workers



The following chart is the number of fishers & plant workers, the number of responses and non responses



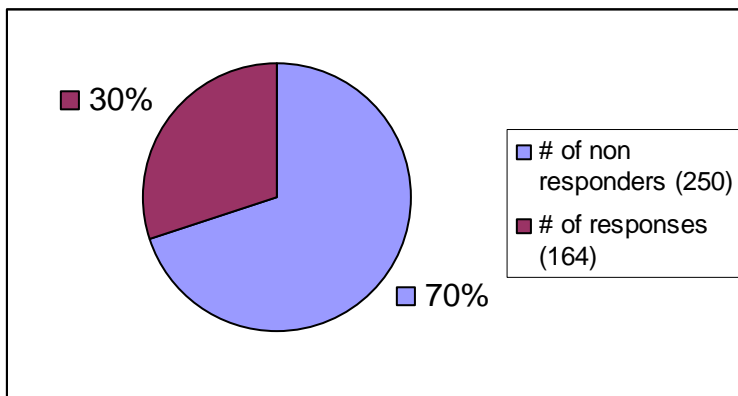
Material was researched at the Coasters Association’s office and a bibliography was produced. The reports pertaining to the fishery (approximately 19) was listed, and this list was forwarded to the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, the Lower North Shore Fishermen’s Association, the Municipality of Bonne Esperance, the Multi-Species Fishermen’s Association for Old Fort to Blanc Sablon, the Inshore Traditional Fishermen’s Committee, and the Plant Workers Committee to verify the existing information of any missing reports.

A questionnaire for the fishers and plant workers was developed with the Consultant, Bill Pardy, Cornella Maurice, Executive Director of the Coasters Association, Priscilla Griffin, a representative from the Municipality of Bonne Esperance for the fishery clientele, in collaboration with the following organizations/resource people: Paul Nadeau, Executive Director of the Lower North Shore Fishermen’s Association, Jean Richard Joncas, President of the Multi-Species Fishermen’s Association for Old Fort to Blanc Sablon, Wesley Etheridge, President of the Inshore Traditional Fishermen’s Committee, Tanya Smith, Vice-President of the St. Paul’s Plant Workers Committee, Vicki Driscoll, Director of Community

Economic Development Employability Comity (CEDEC), and Martin St. Gelais, Director for the Department of Fisheries and Oceans.

The questionnaire was mailed to three hundred and eighty-four (384) fishers and plant workers affected by the closure of the crab in Zone 13 and the cod in the Municipality of Bonne Esperance and Blanc Sablon. The reason the responses were lower than anticipated was that the fishers were preparing their boats and gear for the fishing season, and then started fishing. The responses anticipated were higher, but it is believed that the responses received were average for this type of survey.

The following chart shows the percent of responses



A list of project workers for the Municipality of Bonne Esperance, who participated in the 2003 season (approximately 114 out of 242), and the 2004 season (approximately 82), was developed.

A questionnaire was produced for the owners and/or managers of the three fish plants in the eastern sector of the Lower North Shore. A meeting was held with the manager of St. Paul's Seafood, Irving Roberts, to complete the questionnaire. The questionnaire was mailed to the manager of Old Fort Bay and the owner of Blanc Sablon fish plants, participation was refused by both parties.

The animator met with all the businesses of the Municipality of Bonne Esperance, sixteen in total, to complete the survey.

A meeting was held with Rejean Dumas and Guy LeRoux of the Local Development Centre (LDC), and Serge Dumas for the Ministère de l'Agriculture des Pêcheries et de l'Alimentation (MAPAC) to discuss the closure of the fishery, and its impact on the organizations and population of the coast.

All information gathered during the duration of this project will help to assist the fishers and plant workers for the long term planning in the development of initiatives for the communities. These very important initiatives will have an impact directly on the economy, and will provide new growth for those directly affected by the fishery crisis.

The needs and opportunities identified within this report would not have been possible without the input of the fishers, plant workers, fish plants, and businesses.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Coasters Association has been working for many years in assisting the fishers and plant workers on the Lower North Shore with their initiatives and concerns.

Due to the closure of the fishery, people are looking for answers to the many questions that have arisen. This survey has given the fishers and plant workers the opportunity to voice their opinions regarding the issues, initiatives, and future opportunities that are believed to be possible for this region.

Special thanks must be given to the fishers and plant workers that answered the survey. The resource people deserve a big thank-you for taking the time from their busy schedules to ensure that this report was accomplished. The businesses, committees and organizations that meet with the animator deserve recognition. Without the participation of everyone involved, this would not have been possible.

The funding supplied by the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, and the support of the Coasters Association made it possible to carry out this research produce a report of the needs and opportunities of the fishers, plant workers, fish plants, and businesses affected by the closure of the fishery, and for this we are very grateful.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction	1
Acknowledgments	5
Table of Contents	7
<i>Part I Needs Assessment</i>	9
Fishers & Plant Worker's	11
Fish Plants	16
Businesses	17
<i>Part II Identification of Opportunities</i>	19
Fishers & Plant Worker's	21
Fish Plants	22
Businesses	22
<i>Part III Future Outlook</i>	25
Fishers & Plant Worker's	27
Fish Plants	28
Businesses	29
<i>Conclusion</i>	31
<i>Recommendations</i>	35
Fishers & Plant Worker's	37
Fish Plants	37
Businesses	38
<i>Bibliography</i>	39
<i>Annexes</i>	43
Annex 1 Questionnaires	47

Part I
Needs Assessment

Needs Assessment

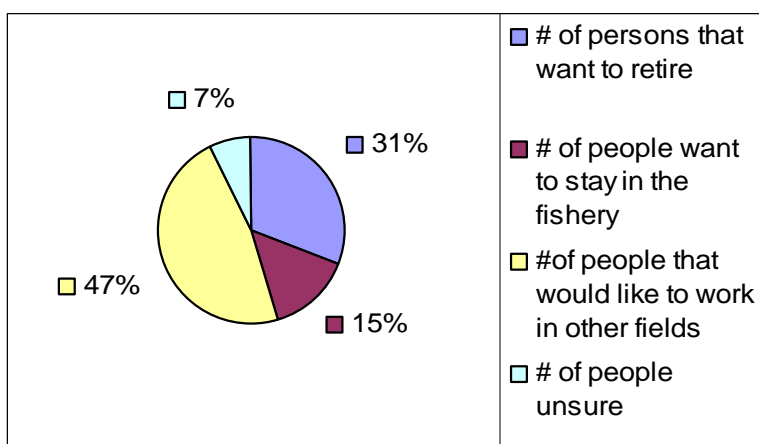
Fishers and Plant Worker's

Due to the cod moratorium and the closure of the crab in Zone 13, the fishing industry in the area cannot support as many jobs as in the past. This study forwarded to the fishers and plant workers provided the chance to state their needs and opportunities.

A. Retirement

If retirement packages were put into place for people from the age of fifty (50) and over, this would cut the number of fishers and plant workers down by approximately thirty percent (30%). The majority of fishers and plant workers over the age of fifty would like to retire. Approximately ten percent (10%) of the fishers would like to retire and be able to pass their licenses to another (ie: son, brother, crew member, etc.), and for others they would like the government to buy back their licenses at an acceptable offer and be tax-free.

The following chart states the interest of the fishers and plant workers



Seven percent (7%) of the fishers and plant workers are unsure of what the future holds for them. Not knowing what the government's long term plans are with regards to retirement packages, creation of jobs, sustainability of the fishing industry, and not knowing about the future, creates a sense of insecurity and unpredictability for the people involved in the fishery.

B) Employment

Employment opportunities have been drastically reduced, due to the closure of the fishery. The requirements for obtaining employment are education and work experience. A number of the clientele in the fishery do not have a high school leaving. The knowledge

obtained from the fishery has given them skills in numerous fields (ie: planning, organizing, book keeping, accounting, management, etc.).

Employment insurance benefits for fishers are finished in April and May. Ice conditions cause a delay for the fishers to start fishing. This leaves the fishers with no income for up to two months. The plant workers are also affected, because they depend on the fishers for the products that the plants process. In situations like this, EI benefits should be extended until fishers can start fishing.

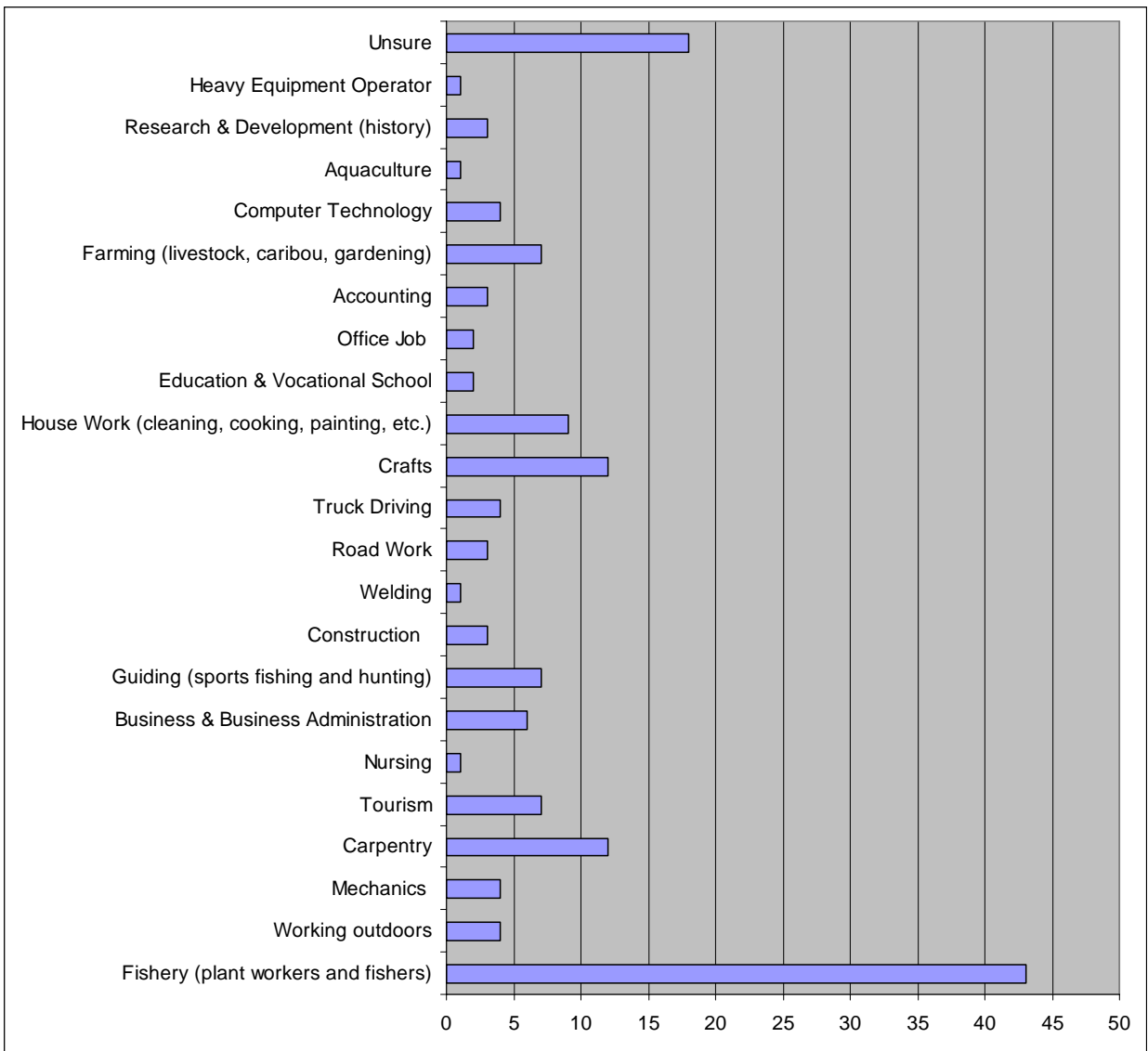
The fishers and plant workers that are employed through projects have received basic training in computers (ie: internet, Microsoft word, and windows), secretarial, office duties, and personal finances.

Short-term projects have been put into place for the fishers and plant workers and the wages of the projects do not meet the needs of the fishers. Wages that are put into place for these types of projects need to be set by the number of years that people have been working in the fishery, and also by their income from the fishery.

When fishers have to maintain their boats for fishing, and also have to work on these types of projects, it is very difficult when the wages that are paid on projects is far less than the income from fishing. Also this causes their employment insurance to be much lower than what the fishers received while fishing full time. The fishers and plant workers are concerned about the interim goals until the fishery reopens. However, steps must be taken to develop all areas of the economy for the fishers and plant workers. The fisheries have been the main source of employment in this region. It is not only a job, but also a way of life for these small fishing villages.

The fishers and plant workers recommend full participation at all levels of government, composed of fishers that have been in the industry for at least ten (10) years, from Kegaska to Blanc Sablon. The fishers believe that this would ensure a better communication channel regarding the policies and regulations of the ministry.

Eighty percent (80%) of the fishers and plant workers would like to continue working in the fishery. However, the following chart also underlines other areas of employment.



Studies must be carried out to develop an action plan to create long term job opportunities, and explore the various industries (ie: fishing, tourism, sports facilities, canning/freezing/drying plant, gardening/green houses, wild berries, peat moss, recycling/composting plant, mining, farming, entrepreneurship, day care, youth facilities, seniors home, heritage and culture, etc.) of the coast. The fishers and plant workers must be involved in the planning process to develop the action plan to establish these industries. Financial support, training and education are important components in the development of the action plan, as well as support from the organizations and committees of the Municipality of Bonne Esperance and Blanc Sablon.

C) Education

Education is the key to the development of the communities and the technology of today.

There are fishers interested in starting an aquaculture farm, but do not have the necessary training and/or information to take on such an important endeavor.

A course should be given over the winter months to educate the fishers of the operation of an aquaculture farm, the new technology that fishers are required to have on their boats, and an accounting course. These types of courses can be given in collaboration with other organizations and the knowledge gained can assure that they are able to gain employment in other areas, if the fishery does not sustain itself. Seventy-five percent (75%) of the people in the fishery would like to obtain the necessary skills to gain employment in other fields outside of the fishery, if the fishery is to accommodate such a work force.

D) Tourism

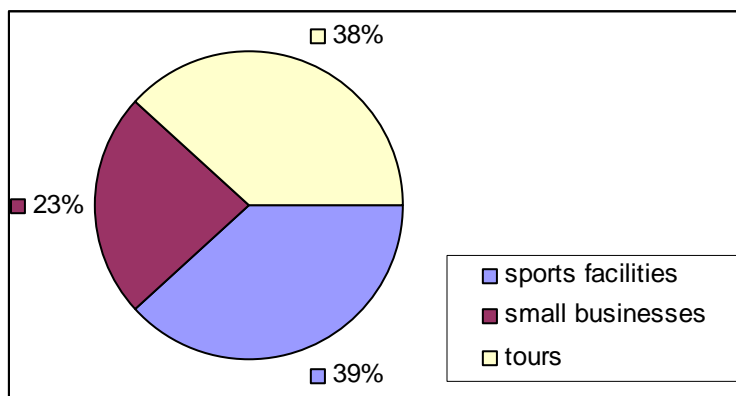
Tourism has become a large industry all over the world. Tourists are interested in the remoteness and simplicity of this region. Variety and uniqueness are what tourists look for in the areas they visit. The possibilities for development are numerous with a genuine commitment of all partners (ie: local, regional, provincial and federal).

Infrastructures and services must be put in place to create opportunities in the different sectors of the economy.

The following are the types of infrastructures and services that would be required to attract people to the area.

- Development of small businesses (i.e.: restaurants, lodging, coffee shops, gift shops, etc.)
- Sports facilities (ie: kayaking, hiking trails, RV camp grounds, parks, canoeing, etc.)
- Boat Tours (ie: whale watching, visiting the islands, etc.).

The following chart states the number of people interested in the different sectors



Once these infrastructures and services are put into place, the region can market this area as the ideal tourist sight to visit. The residents realize that change is necessary if the Lower North Shore is going to survive.

E) Heritage and Culture

The history, culture and traditions of our villages must be promoted to entice tourist to visit the area. Historical sites must be developed to ensure their survival for future generations, so these areas are not destroyed. If these areas are not preserved, then the history will be lost. As tourism is becoming more prominent in our villages, the historical sites will be used as a marketing strategy to entice tourists to this area.

However, the present population must become more involved in community activities and supportive of organizations working in the industry.

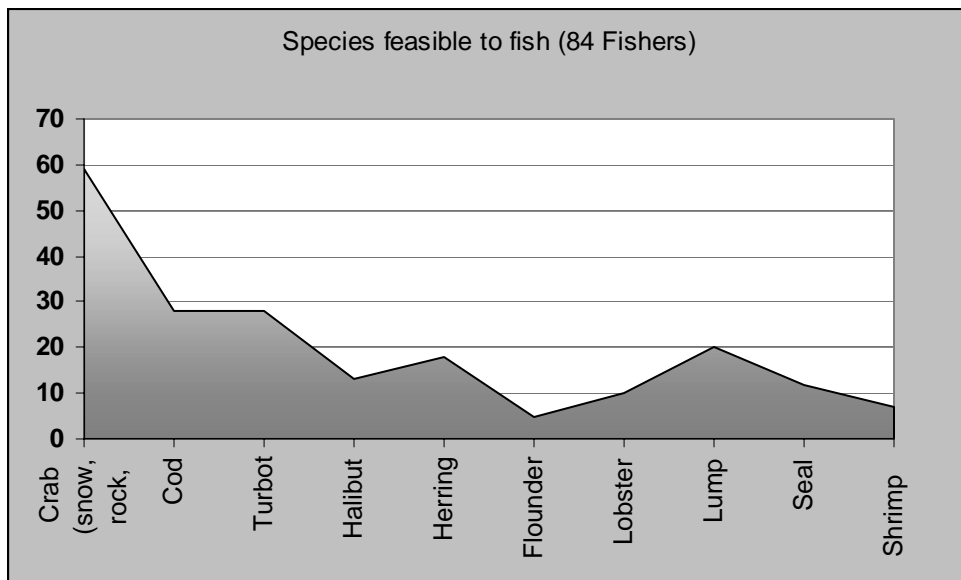
The federal and provincial government must provide financial and human resources in order to meet these goals.

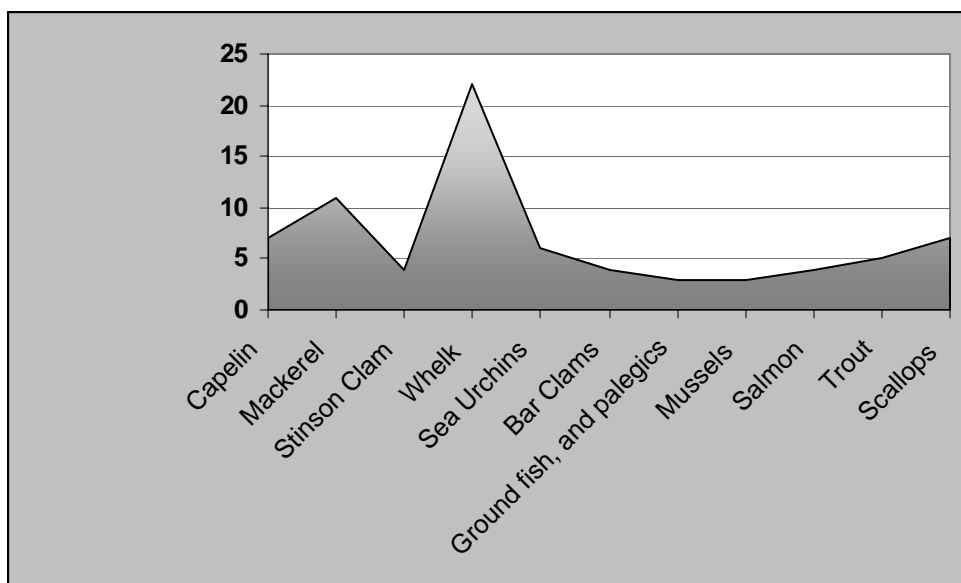
F) Other Species

Other species must be surveyed to determine the viability of the fishing stock. Research and training must be conducted to market these products. Hatcheries must be built for the species that are declining to the point of extinction. Fishers interested in aquaculture farming should be given the opportunity to participate.

Approximately ninety-five percent (95%) of the fishers believe that these species are feasible for fishing.

The following charts show the species that fishers believe are viable to fish





Rules and regulations concerning the zones need to be reevaluated, due to the fishery crisis in this area. Draggers have taken so much from the bottom of the ocean that fishers believe there should be a controller on board during the full fishing season to study what is taken aboard, and what actually survives when it is thrown back into the sea. If it is proven that this is a factor in the fisheries decline, then a four hundred (400) mile limit should be set for the draggers in this area.

According to the fishers and plant workers consulted, are of the opinion that resources need to be distributed equally to all fishers, and for acquiring licenses it should not make any difference whether you are a core or non-core fishermen. Everybody is trying to make a living in the fishery. If these discriminations were not in place, then all fishers would have the same opportunities. Fishers and plant workers need to be better informed of ways to stay in the fishery.

Foreign fishing, as we have today, has serious impact on the decline of the fishery stocks. How can the fishery survive when the species do not have a recuperating time within the year? It is essential that all species need a spawning period, so that the natural habitat is protected. The decline of species over the years has been directly caused by over fishing with no regards for the survival of the species. This is a concern for all fishery parties.

Fish Plants

There are three fish plants in the Municipality of Bonne Esperance and Blanc Sablon. A questionnaire was produced for the owners/managers of the fish plants in the eastern sector of the Lower North Shore. The following are the results of a meeting held with the manager of St. Paul's Seafood, Irving Roberts.

- The plant requires permits to operate
- Buyers are needed for all species and cheaper transportation

- Financial assistance for equipment to process all species
- All fishers must sell their products to the plant
- Education and training regarding aquaculture
- Research the viability of aquaculture, and sharing of information by the existing businesses in the industry
- Species should not be trucked out of the province for processing

Businesses

Due to the closure of the fisheries, ninety-eight percent (98%) of the sales of the businesses have decreased. In order for these businesses to survive, other industries must be developed.

Approximately fifty percent (50%) of the businesses foresee themselves becoming seasonal, due to the exodus of people leaving to obtain employment. An influx of people (i.e.: tourists) is very important to the survival of these small businesses. The importance of new infrastructures and future development in tourism is crucial for this area.

The transportation costs for products are too costly in the region. If transportation costs do not drop, the businesses will be looking for subsidies to be able to compete with the larger businesses. The clientele are always looking for better prices, and it is very difficult to offer lower prices when the costs for transporting these products are so high.

The road in Labrador is currently being completed to Goose Bay, and this would offer the businesses in Quebec a way of transporting at a lower cost. The transportation cost of the Relais Nordik is very expensive for this region, and is currently the only way of transporting products. Agreements can be signed with the Newfoundland and Labrador regions to transport products to Quebec's Lower North Shore.

Businesses are interested in setting up a co-op that would include all businesses on the Lower North Shore (board of directors made up of representatives from every municipality). If the businesses on the Lower North Shore do not see this as viable, then a Chamber of Commerce could be put into place in the Municipality of Bonne Esperance. Ninety-eight percent (98%) of the businesses would like to have a Chamber of Commerce set up for the Municipality of Bonne Esperance. It is believed that this would allow all businesses to profit, and it would reduce the competition between businesses.

Businesses have to be aware of the ever-changing needs of the clientele. In the past five years, the diets of people have changed. The clientele are looking for ways to eat healthier, and this has changed the products in which the entrepreneurs are purchasing.

Insurance policies for business owners are very costly, especially for those businesses that depend on the tourism industry and operate mainly on a seasonal basis. The businesses in Bonne Esperance would like to have insurance rates set for this area, because when classified with large cities the premiums are too costly for the income in this region.

The government has programs available for young entrepreneurs, but for businesses that have been in operation for a number of years (i.e.: 10-20 yrs) financial assistance is not available. Ninety-five percent (95%) of the businesses have applied for aid to purchase the necessary equipment to be able to provide the services needed in this region, and have been refused. Aid programs also need to be available for businesses that have been in operation for more than ten (10) years.

PART II

IDENTIFICATION OF OPPORTUNITIES

Identification of opportunities

Fishers and plant workers

The fishing industry is one of the main sources of employment in this region. Employment opportunities on the Lower North Shore, since the closure of the fishery, are nearly non-existent.

The following opportunities are what the fishers and plant workers believe could be developed in their communities. The potential resources will have to be researched to ascertain what is viable. With help from organizations and committees that are in place, the opportunities are endless.

The options that the fishers and plant workers believe could be developed are:

Fishing

- Continue fishing
- More fishing camps
- Fish Farm
- Aquaculture

Heritage & Culture

- Historical development & preserving our history

Tourism

- Whale watching
- Winter camps (French language tourism)
- Hand gliding
- Hiking trails
- Landscaping
- RV camp grounds and camping sites
- Boat tours
- Kayaking

Other Industries

- Canning/freezing/drying plant
- Gardening/ Green houses
- Wild berries
- Peat moss
- Recycling/composting plant
- Mining
- Farming (livestock, caribou etc.)

Transportation

- Town buses
- Route 138 connected to the rest of Quebec

Infrastructures

- Day care
- Seniors home
- Entrepreneurship
- Youth facilities

The number of opportunities within this region that could be developed, with assistance from different organizations, the federal and provincial government, is unlimited. People would like to set up businesses, but the future is so uncertain, especially if route 138 is not completed.

The question asked is, “Would you start a business in a dying community?” This is what the people foresee if route 138 is not completed. This will be a deciding factor, to many people, as to whether they will start a business or not. The people believe that in order for these opportunities to become a reality, a substantial increase of tourists to this area is necessary.

These ventures cannot be sustained solely by the residents within the local communities.

Fish Plants

The fish plants require a permit to be able to operate. Due to the closure of the fishery in the region, the fish plants in Old Fort Bay and St. Paul's River are not currently in operation. These two plants do not have a permit to operate.

The opportunities to process other species for the fish plant are:

- Turbot
- Crab
- Mackerel
- Shrimp
- Cod
- Halibut
- Lump Roe

The fishermen must be issued licenses for these species, and the plants will need buyers for the products.

The fish plants would be able to operate and manufacture all species, if the fishermen agree to sell all products to the plants in their own villages. The permit for operation, financial assistance by the governments (federal, and provincial) to bring the plants up to code, agreements from the fishers to sell their products to their own plants, and prices for the products must be set the same in all areas. There are buyers for all species, but the cost of transportation is too costly, thus making it unviable to fish certain species (ie: herring).

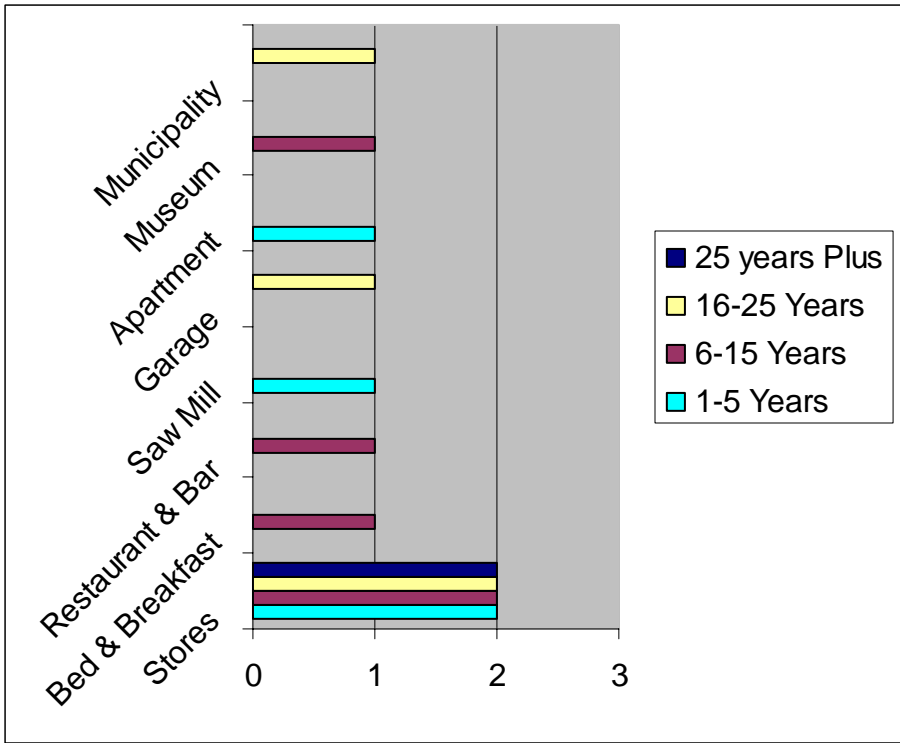
A co-op could be possible, but at the present time the Daley Company is currently leasing the St. Paul's Seafood plant until year 2009. The possibility of putting in place a co-op for the fish plant can only be discussed with the fishers and plant workers in 2009. This opportunity, if agreed by all fishers and plant workers, could be a business run by the fishery people. The fishers and plant workers would be responsible for making sure the species was produced in their own plants.

Businesses

One hundred percent of the businesses in Bonne Esperance have been affected by the closure of the fishery. The changes that have been brought forth are 95% negative and 5% positive. For example: the grocery stores have had a decrease in sales, the lumber company has had an increase, due to the projects needing building supplies.

Some of these businesses have seen many changes through the years, and some of the new businesses have plans to expand, if route 138 is completed.

The following chart shows the number of years the businesses have been in operation.

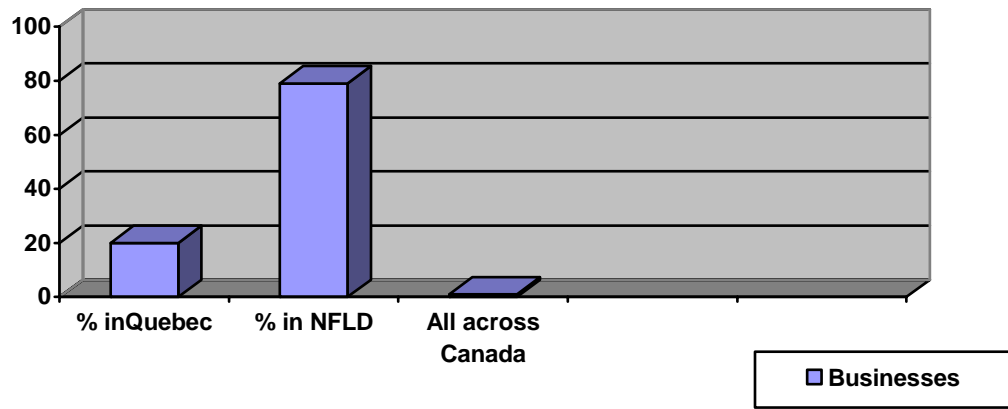


The necessities identified by the businesses are:

- Route 138 completed
- Product prices decreasing
- Transportation costs decreasing
- Insurance policies set for the region
- Chamber of Commerce set up for the Municipality of Bonne Esperance
- Tourism (will bring more business for the whole community)

The businesses purchase their supplies mainly from Newfoundland, as well as Quebec and elsewhere in Canada. The reason the businesses purchase mainly from NFLD is because the companies deliver the products directly to the individual businesses, and when purchased in Quebec the businesses have to go to the shed of the Relais Nordik, in Old Fort Bay or Blanc Sablon, to pick up their products. This is not only an inconvenience, but also an added expense.

The following chart illustrates the percentage of businesses that buy from Quebec, NFLD, and Canada.



Due to the quay in Old Fort Bay being condemned, vessels are not permitted to dock in this port. If you look back through history, there has always been a port of calling in the protected bay of Old Fort. Since the dock has been condemned, there is no docking port within the Municipality of Bonne Esperance. This has also had a negative impact for the businesses and tourism.

PART III
FUTURE OUTLOOK

Future outlook

Fishers and Plant Workers

The future outlook seems very bleak and uncertain for the people affected by the closure of the fishery. To ensure that the needs and opportunities of the fishers and plant workers are met, research is needed to determine the areas of development. The government must immediately establish their long term plan and the potential industries on the coast for the future of the region.

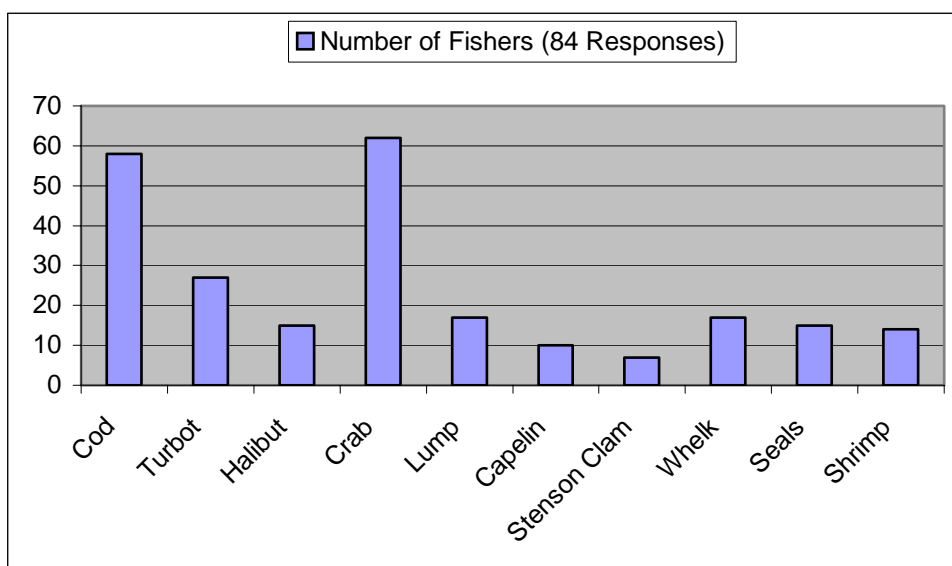
Training in areas (such as computer technology, business, accounting, research, aquaculture, tourism, farming, secretarial, etc.) will be required for the people affected by the closure of the fishery to be able to return to the work force with the necessary skills.

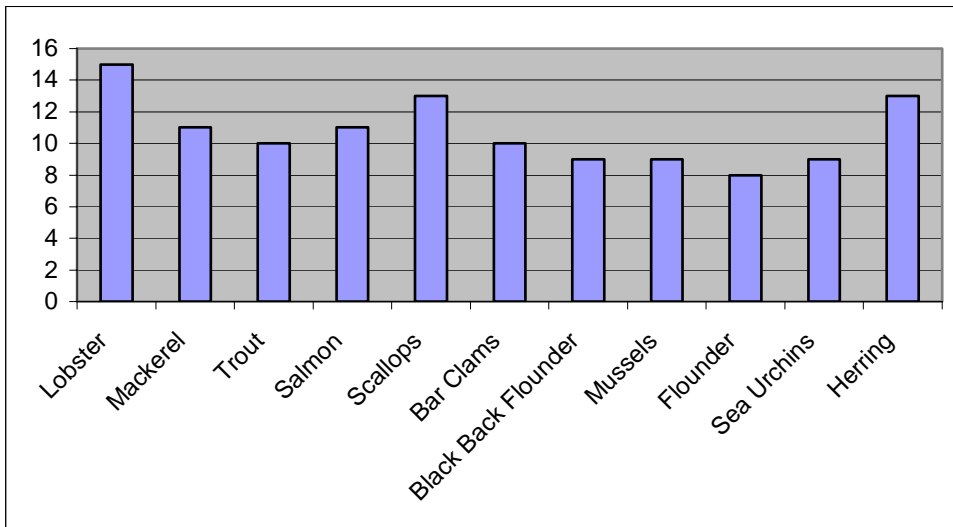
The fishers and plant workers that have been in the fishery and are over the age of fifty (50) a retirement package of an acceptable income is what they are entrusting the government to offer. The retirement packages offered should be calculated by the number of years worked, and the total earnings received.

Approximately 85% of the fishers would like to be able to continue fishing.

The fishers need buyers to purchase their products at a reasonable price, and the transportation costs for shipping these products need to be lowered. The fishers who were consulted believe that licenses should be shared equally to all fishers for all species. The fishers are required to keep their boats up to standards whether they fish or not, according to government regulations.

The following charts show the species that the fishers want to fish





The fishers in Zone 13, and the fishers affected by the cod closure believe that the area needs to be re-evaluated in terms of quotas and zones. Since the closure of the fishery in this area, fishers in all areas of the Lower North Shore has been issued quota cut backs. Zones have been set by the Department of Fisheries and Oceans. If there is no fishery in certain zones, the fishers affected by the closure should be permitted to fish these zones, not affected by the closure.

The population of the Lower North Shore must assist in the development of the tourism industry. The completion of route 138 is essential, travel and transportation costs would be cheaper, and the students would be able to commute with other schools on and off the Lower North Shore with easier access. Transportation and tourism are very important sectors of development with regards to the survival of the region.

Fish plants

The fish plant owners/managers deem it necessary to reorganize the whole fishery. If a retirement package is put in place for the people fifty five years old and over, this would considerably decline the number of people remaining in the fishery. There may be cost advantages in offering retirement packages, as the projects and Employment Insurance premiums pay out are similar.

Companies cannot set up a pension plan for their workers, as they operate only for two to three months out of a year. Compensation should also be put into place, so that the cost of operating the plants does not run a deficit. The fish plants have not had an opportunity to contribute to a pension plan as other businesses.

Aquaculture education is needed in this region. Aquaculture is apparently a viable industry, in other regions similar to ours; lack of information and research prevent the entrepreneurs from investing in the industry. More information is needed about the existing aquaculture industries on the coast.

The species that are in demand on the market are turbot, cod, crab, halibut, mackerel, and lump roe. Herring is also feasible to fish; however, due to the transportation costs, buyers will not purchase herring from this region.

Businesses

Businesses have had to struggle since the closure of the fishery. The future appears very uncertain. If another industry does not open to take the strain off the fishery, the exodus of the people will become permanent. If they have to leave their families for approximately six months out of a year, they will take their families to live where they can obtain employment. At the present time, business in the summer months are less than the winter months, due to the fact that people leave for work, approximately four to six months out of a year.

If the situation does not improve in about ten years, the population will be approximately one hundred and fifty (150), consisting of mainly senior citizens.

Since the landing pier in Old Fort Bay has been closed, the businesses have not seen as many tourists. With tourism vastly becoming a major industry, the quay needs to be rebuilt. The tourist boats were only able to dock at one village within the Bonne Esperance area, the community of Old Fort Bay, and now there is no docking port for boats.

There are plans for bus tours to begin in 2005. The tourism foundation for the Bonne Esperance area has been working with the tourism committees of Labrador, and a percentage of the buses visiting Labrador in 2005 are predicted to visit Bonne Esperance. A substantial increase in tourists visiting the Bonne Esperance is anticipated in the near future; therefore, facilities must be put into place to accommodate the tourists during their stay. This will increase business in the summer months.

The lumber company plans to expand. Presently the company sells lumber, and will be expanding by setting up workshops for building furniture, contracts for houses, and landscaping.

The restaurant and bar owners will be offering more catering services, and are depending on the tourism industry to increase business.

Infrastructures and services are needed to accommodate tourists in this area. If route 138 is not completed, then the businesses see foreclosures in the coming years.

The majority of the communities are depending on the completion of route 138 and the tourism industry to increase business in this region. The overall view of the residents in the Bonne Esperance area supports the construction and completion of route 138 to achieve many of the goals outlined in the report. This is one of the major drawbacks for the development of this region. The cost of transportation, traveling, and marketing always refers to route 138, connecting the Lower North Shore to Quebec, Canada, and the world. Without this connection, the Lower North Shore will cease to exist in the future.

The Lower North Shore will not survive if the present situation continues for much longer. If a future is seen for this region, then urgent steps must be taken to ensure its survival.

CONCLUSION

Conclusion

Through the questionnaires, interviews and meetings with the individuals, businesses, fish plants, and local organizations, it is clear that the closure of the crab in Zone 13 and the cod in the Municipality of Bonne Esperance and Blanc Sablon have had a huge impact on the communities. The youth that worked in the fish plants in the summer are also effected by the closures. There are but a few summer jobs for the students, leaving approximately ninety-five percent (95%) with no summer employment. The loss of income and jobs has put a great strain on the people affected by the closure and also the businesses.

The resource people have been a vital part of this project and their opinions and contributions were an asset, as well as the respondents of the questionnaires. The outcome of this project will help determine the long term planning.

The opportunities are numerous in this region, if route 138 was completed. The local people and businesses realize that change is necessary, if we are to survive the closure of the fishery. Ninety percent (90%) of the income for the Municipality of Bonne Esperance came from the fishery. Due to this closure, an exodus of seasonal workers is increasing every year.

Throughout this report many of the needs and opportunities refer to the completion of route 138. In order for this region to compete with the outside, to develop, and to have another industry set up to take the strain off the fishery, then the Lower North Shore must be connected to Quebec, Canada, and the rest of the world.

It is evident that the fishers and plant workers, affected by the closure of the crab in Zone 13 and the cod in the Municipality of Bonne Esperance and Blanc Sablon, are awaiting the long term plan before they can make future plans.

There has been an enormous impact on the economy, due to the closure of the crab and the cod. The governments (regional, provincial, and federal) and the residents of each community have a very important role to play in making sure that the opportunities identified are achieved. The municipalities must become involved in the community planning for the region and work together with the fishers, plant workers, fish plants, businesses, committees, and organizations. The population must take part in the planning in order for these initiatives to become a reality.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendations

Fishers and plant workers

The following recommendations stem from the surveys received from the fishers and plant workers.

- Re-evaluate the fishery, and determine what species are viable;
- Survey the species to determine the viability of the fish stocks;
- retirement packages (50 and over);
- employment opportunities (interim, medium term);
- extend employment insurance benefits for fishers until the fishery season begins;
- research, education and training opportunities (ie: computer technology, business, accounting, research, aquaculture, tourism, farming, secretarial, etc.);
- infrastructures and services established in tourism (ie: whale watching, hand gliding, hiking trails, RV campgrounds, boat tours, kayaking, etc.);
- other industries established (ie: canning/freezing/drying plant, gardening/green houses, wild berries, peat moss, recycling/composting plant, mining, farming, etc.);
- need participation at all levels of government;
- route 138 connected to Quebec;
- historical development and preserving our history;
- community facilities (ie: day care, seniors home, entrepreneurship, youth facilities etc.);
- a study to develop an action plan, create long term job opportunities, and explore various industries.

Fish Plants

The following recommendations of the fish plants are:

- Study of viable species potentially profitable for fishing;
- study of all species inhabiting these waters;
- marketing and pricing of the different species set the same in all areas;
- co-op's established for the fish plants;
- aid to up grade the equipment of the plant;
- education and training of viable species;
- research the viability of aquaculture;
- research potential buyers and cheaper transportation;
- operating permits issued.

Businesses

The sixteen businesses that were interviewed have the following recommendations:

- Infrastructures and services established regarding tourism;
- complete route 138;
- aid for expansion of businesses;
- the wharf in Old Fort Bay rebuilt;
- Chamber of Commerce for the Municipality of Bonne Esperance;
- insurance policies set solely for the Lower North Shore area;
- transportation costs lowered ;
- setting up of a co-op, including all businesses of the Lower North Shore;
- government programs must be developed to benefit all the entrepreneurs, not just the youth entrepreneurs.

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Total: 19

ANNEX

Questionnaires

The following questionnaires for the closure of the crab in Zone 13, were sent to the following villages:

- Sept-Iles
- St. Paul's River
- Middle Bay
- Brador
- Lourdes de Blanc Sablon
- Blanc Sablon
- Old Fort Bay
- Kegaska
- Chevery
- Harrington Harbor
- Tête-a la Baleine (the questionnaire was translated in French)
- St. Augustine

For the closure of the cod, the questionnaire was sent to the:

- Municipality of Bonne Esperance
- Municipality of Blanc Sablon

Note:

The following annexes are available at the Coasters Association office upon request:

- Schedule of Activities (Phase I & II)
- Work/Action Plan (Phase I & II)
- List of Resource People

Fishery Project
(Needs Assessment & Identification of Opportunities)

Questionnaire

Name: _____

Status (ie: fisher, plant worker): _____

A

- 1) What is the greatest concern that you have as a result of the fishery closure?
- 2) What does this mean for you and for the community?
- 3) What do you believe can be done about this?
- 4) What can you do to help make this happen?

B

- 1) Would you like to stay in the fishery (ie. fisher's and plant workers)?
 - a) If yes, what can be done for this to happen?
 - b) If no, what would you like to do?
 - c) If a retirement package were a response, then the question would be:
What would be an acceptable retirement package?
- 2) What are your interests?

- 3) Who needs to take responsibility for this to happen?

G

- 1) Do you have a suggestion or solution to the fishery crisis?

Yes

No

- a) If yes, what would be your suggestions or solutions?

H

- 1) Do you believe that if the communities from Kegaska to Blanc-Sablon were connected by road to the rest of Quebec, that it would have an impact on the fishing industry, and in what way?

Total: 19

Thank-you!

Projet sur les Pêches
Identification des Besoins et Identification de Opportunités

Questionnaire

A

- 1) Quelle est votre plus grande inquiétude suite à la fermeture des pêches?
- 2) Qu'est-ce que ça représente pour vous et pour votre communauté?
- 3) Qu'est-ce qui pourrait être fait à ce sujet?
- 4) Qu'est-ce que vous pouvez faire pour que ça arrive?

B

- 1) Désirez-vous rester dans les pêcheries (c'est dire : pêcheur ou travailleur d'usine)?
 - a) Si oui, qu'est-ce qui peut être fait pour que ça arrive?
 - b) Si non, qu'aimeriez-vous faire?
 - c) Si un plan de retraite était une réponse, la question serait :
Qu'est qui serait pour vous un plan de retraite acceptable?
- 2) Quels sont vos intérêts?

C

- 1) Avez-vous un permis?
Oui Non
- a) Si oui, êtes-vous propriétaire de votre bateau et est-ce que vous en avez la preuve?
Oui Non
- 2) Si vous avez la preuve que votre bateau vous appartient, quels sont les besoins que vous avez pour équiper votre bateau afin de le lancer pour la saison de pêche 2004?

E

- a) Pour la pêche au crabe?
- b) Pour les autres espèces?

D

- 1) Quelles espèces est-il possible de pêcher?
- 2) Pour quelles espèces auriez-vous de l'intérêt?
- 3) Qu'aurez-vous à faire pour considérer de pêcher d'autres espèces?
- 4) Quels sont les critères pour pêcher ces espèces (C'est-à-dire : condition de la glace, quota global, etc....) qui devraient être pris en considération pour cette région?

E

- 1) Croyez-vous que la Basse Côte Nord de Kegaska à Blanc Sablon a sa part régionale de toutes les espèces?
- 2) Pourquoi est-ce si important pour les pêcheurs de la Basse Côte Nord?

F

- 1) Quels sont vos plans pour le futur?
- 2) Quelles opportunités voyez-vous pour vous-même dans le futur dans à Blanc Sablon?

G

- 1) D'après vous quelles opportunités pourraient se développer à Blanc Sablon ?
- 2) Qu'est-ce qui sera nécessaire pour que ces opportunités deviennent réalité?
- 3) Qui doit prendre les responsabilités pour que ça arrive?

H

1 a) Avez-vous une suggestion ou solution à la crise des pêches?

Oui

Non

a) Si oui, quel serait vos suggestions ou solutions?

I

1) Est-ce que vous pensez que si les communautés de Kegaska à Blanc Sablon étaient relié par route au reste du Québec ça aurait un impact sur l'industrie de la pêche et de quelle façon?

Total : 21

MERCI!

Coaster Association

Fishery Project
(Needs Assessment & Identification of Opportunities)

Questionnaire for Fish Plants

Fish Plant: _____

Owner/Manager: _____

1) Is your Plant in Operation?

YES

NO

a) If yes, what do you process?

b) If no, what is the reason you are not able to process seafood?

2) What are the biggest concerns for the plants since the closure of the Fishery?

3) What would be required to be able to operate the plants for the 2004 season, and the future?

4) Do you believe that the fishermen should agree to sell their products to their own plants?

YES

NO

a) What difference do you believe this would make?

5) What species does your plant process?

6) Is your plant capable of processing other types of species?

14) Do you believe that if the communities from Kegaska to Blanc-Sablon were connected by road to the rest of Quebec, that it would have an impact on the fishing industry, and in what way?

15) Other Comments:

TOTAL: 15

Thank-you!

Fishery Project
(Needs Assessment & Identification of Opportunities)

Questionnaire for Businesses

Name of Business: _____

Owner: _____

- 1) Has the closure of the fishery affected your business?

YES NO

 - a) If yes, how?

- 2) How long have you been in operation?
 - a) What changes have you observed from when you first opened to the present day?
 - b) What do you see for the future of your business?

- 3) Where do you purchase the majority of supplies (ie: Quebec, NFLD)
 - a) What difference is the cost of products when purchased from different areas (ie: Quebec, NFLD)?

- 4) Why is there an increase in the prices for products from summer to winter?

- 5) Has the closure of the fishery affected the hiring of personnel?

YES NO

 - a) If yes, prior to the fishery, how many people did you have employed?
 - b) How many people are currently employed?

6) If co-operative efforts were put into place for the businesses, would you be interested?

YES

NO

- a) If yes, how do you see a co-op working for all businesses?
- b) If no, why not?
- c) Would this lower the cost for the consumer as well as the business, and in what way?
- d) If not a co-op, what do you believe could be put into place so that all businesses could work together to get better prices?

7) Are you apart of the Chamber of Commerce like the one set up in Blanc Sablon?

YES

NO

- a) If yes, how does this work?
- b) If no, would you be interested in being part of the existing Chamber of Commerce, or form one for the Municipality of Bonne Esperance?

8) What could be developed in the Bonne Esperance area that would have a positive impact/spin off for the communities and the businesses?

9) Do you believe that if the communities from Kegaska to Blanc-Sablon were connected by road to the rest of Quebec, that it would have an impact on the business, and in what way?

10) Other Comments?

TOTAL: 12

Thank-you

