



# Study Concerning a Marine Protected Area Around the Magdalen Islands 2012-2014

Information exchange with l'UQAR related to  
the environment of the Magdalen Islands

Newsletter  
Issue 2

## Welcome

The study on the establishment of a marine protected area around the Magdalen Islands (Îles de la Madeleine) has been under way for nearly a year now. The study is co-ordinated jointly by the Parks Canada Agency and the Quebec Ministère du Développement durable, de l'Environnement, de la Faune et des Parcs. The scientific component is being carried out in collaboration with a research team from the University of Quebec à Rimouski (UQAR), partnering with the Centre d'étude et de recherche sur les milieux insulaires et maritimes (CERMIM). The purpose of the study is to assess the possibility of establishing a marine protected area, from an ecological, economic, social and cultural standpoint.

The first phase consists in providing an in-depth overview of the ecological, economic, social and cultural features of the study area, which roughly corresponds to the Quebec portion of the Magdalen Shallows. For this purpose, the UQAR team felt it appropriate to invite Magdalen Islands community experts from various sectors to validate and, if applicable, improve the existing data that will be analyzed to develop various conservation scenarios. To this end, an information exchange workshop will be held on the Magdalen Islands on March 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>.

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## Mandate of the UQAR research team

UQAR team members specialize in a number of areas of research. They are mandated to produce an overview of the area and to identify areas of interest for the conservation and presentation of natural, social and cultural heritage in accordance with the needs expressed by the departments involved.

### Project head

- Jean-Claude Brêthes

### Fisheries resources

- Jean-Claude Brêthes (ISMER)
- Guglielmo Tita (CERMIM)

### Marine ecosystems

- Philippe Archambault (ISMER)

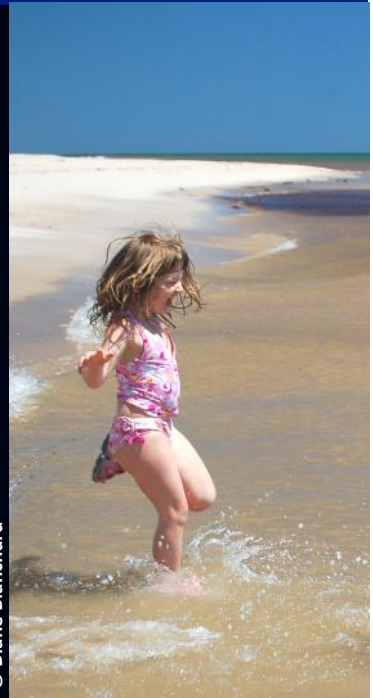
### Socio-economic development and local characteristics

- Nathalie Lewis (UQAR)

### Data integration and mapping

- Bruno Urli (UQAR)
- Jean-Claude Brêthes (ISMER)

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Under the direction of Jean-Claude Brêthes, research head, a number of students and professionals joined the team of researchers to carry out surveys and gather and analyze available data in order to characterize the area and its activities .



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# Information exchange workshop on March 7 and 8, 2013

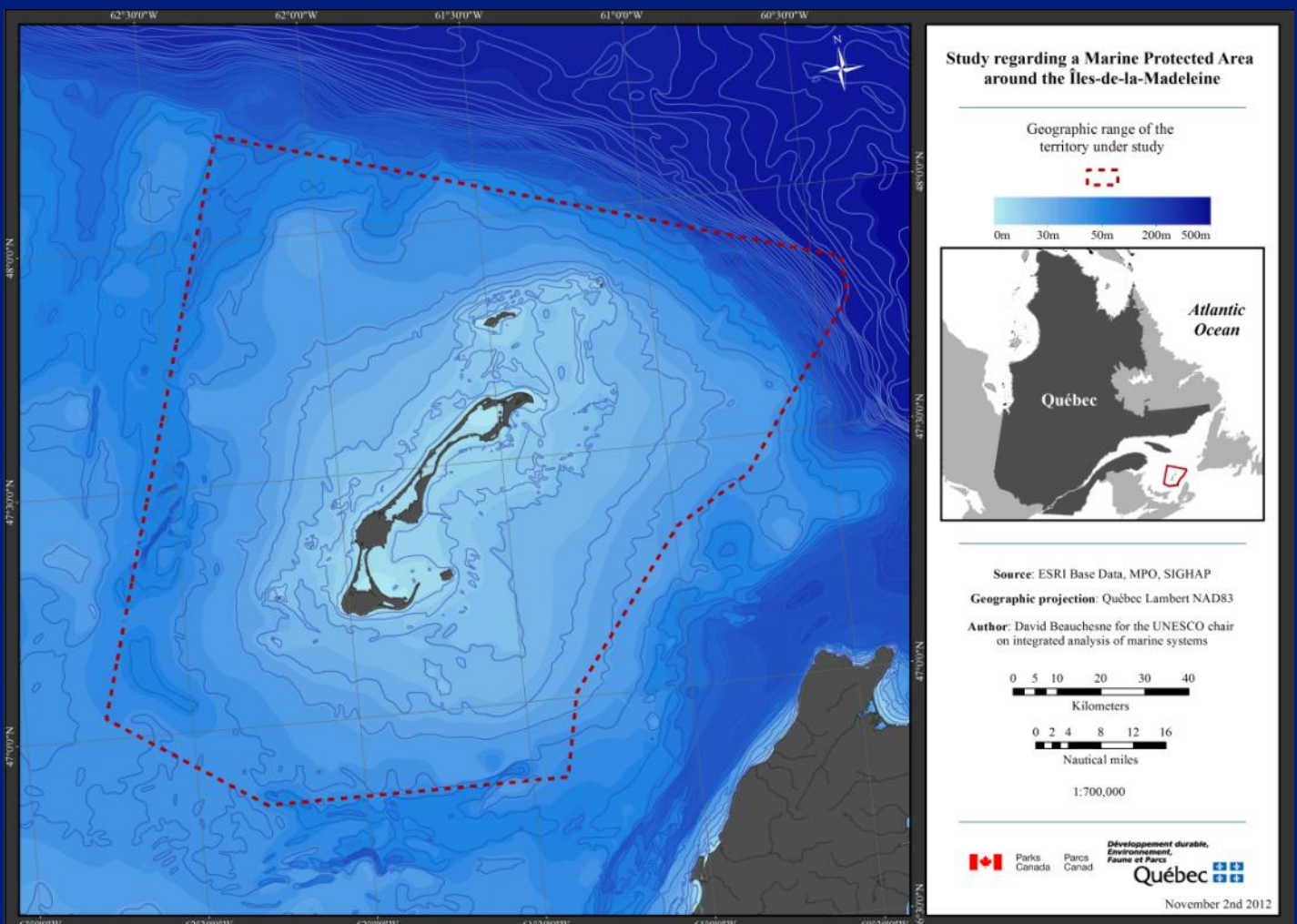
The UQAR research team's information exchange workshop will bring together some 40 participants from various sectors, including fisheries, mariculture, tourism and environment.

## Objectives and expectations

The objective of the activity is to share the data collected over the last few months. Through discussions with the knowledgeable community stakeholders at the event, the UQAR research team will be able to improve the existing data and complete the portrait of the study area. Therefore, the purpose of the information exchange workshop is to verify the quality and reliability of the data collected to date and determine the objectives that will guide the development of conservation scenarios based on ecological, economic, social and cultural considerations. The expertise and contribution of community stakeholders will help to identify and better characterize the areas of interest for conservation and presentation within the study area.

### Discussion topics:

- General conservation objectives;
- Marine ecology and natural environment;
- Natural resources and their use in coastal and marine environments.



The study area lies within the Quebec portion of the Magdalen Shallows. The study will determine areas of interest for the conservation of biodiversity and the presentation of the area's natural, social and cultural heritage.



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## Next steps

After the workshop, the UQAR research team will return to the drawing board, armed with the expertise shared by the participants, to complete the overview of the area and develop conservation scenarios related to the possibility of establishing a marine protected area for the Magdalen Shallows. The various options considered will be presented to members of the Consultative Committee in a timely manner. Until then, the project co-ordination team offers you an opportunity to meet the team and encourages you to request such meetings to learn more about marine protected areas and the current study.

## Feel free to contact us!

- For additional information;
- To share your views on the current study;
- To share your initiatives and interests regarding protection and presentation of the marine environment;
- To request a presentation on marine protected areas and the current study.

### Contact or meet with the study coordinators

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