

Administrative achievements

- Setting up operational work teams in the Tadoussac and Rivière-Éternité offices
- Drafting and adoption of plans relating to management of the marine park, of which the most important are the ecosystem conservation management plan, the public safety plan, the environmental emergency plan, the preliminary zoning plan and the signage plan
- Several studies dealing with natural and cultural components conducted internally and in partnership with agencies, government departments and community groups
 - Drafting of the first report on the state of the marine park
 - Adoption of a partnership strategy that has resulted in dozens of projects carried out by groups in the co-ordination zone, designed to reach the marine park's conservation and presentation objectives
 - Developing the concept of a network of water access sites



Photo: Parks Canada

Presentation at cap de Bon-Désir



Picnic at baie Éternité
Photo: Parks Canada

Creating the Saguenay-St. Lawrence Marine Park was an innovative project in many ways. It was the first time the Canadian and Quebec governments had created a park together, each with their own statutory powers. It was the first park whose purpose was to protect a marine environment in Quebec. In addition, the project was developed in a regional community that was flourishing in many respects, especially its tourist trade. That is why the governments chose to work closely together with partners in the community to meet their objectives.

Over the years, governments and their partners have combined their efforts to conserve the marine ecosystems, while promoting ecologically sustainable uses of them. Below are the main projects carried out by the marine park and its partners, grouped according to the different types of intervention:



Photo: Denis Dubour, Parks Canada

Baie-Sainte-Catherine landing stage

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•Ministère du Développement durable, de l'Environnement et des Parcs
•Société des établissements de plein air du Québec

Sites and services

- Opening of five visitor reception and orientation centres in Trois-Pistoles, Rivière-du-Loup, Les Escoumins, Saguenay (borough of La Baie) and Saint-Fidèle



Photo: Denis Dufour, Parks Canada
Saint-Fidèle Visitor reception and orientation centre

- Implementation of a network of land-based discovery sites, including investment in 15 of the 21 sites run by partners, as well as considerable investment in sites administered by Parks Canada and Parcs Québec:

- Musée du Fjord in La Baie
- Centre d'interprétation des battures et de réhabilitation des oiseaux in Saint-Fulgence
- Baie-Éternité interpretation centre in Rivière-Éternité
- L'Anse-Saint-Jean discovery site

- Petit-Saguenay discovery site
- L'Anse-de-Roche discovery site in Sacré-Cœur
- Baie Sainte-Marguerite interpretation centre
- Pointe-Noire Interpretation and Observation centre in Baie-Sainte-Catherine
- Baie de L'Île-Verte National Wildlife Area
- Maison des Dunes interpretation centre in Tadoussac
- Marine mammal interpretation centre in Tadoussac
- Cap-de-Bon-Désir Interpretation and Observation Centre in Les Bergeronnes
- Marine Environment Discovery Centre in Les Escoumins
- Île aux Basques National Historic Site of Canada
- Parc de l'aventure basque en Amérique in Trois-Pistoles



Photo: Jean-François Bergeron, Parks Canada
Kayak trip on the fjord



Photo: Denis Dufour, Parks Canada
L'Anse-Saint-Jean Discovery Site

- Improvement of the network of water access sites through investment in sites managed by partner organizations or by Parks Canada and Parcs Québec:
 - Baie-Sainte-Catherine wharf
 - L'Anse-Saint-Jean marina
 - Sainte-Rose-du-Nord dock
 - La Baie marina
 - L'Anse-de-Roche marina in Sacré-Cœur
 - Les Bergeronnes marina
 - Île aux Lièvres landing stages
 - Île aux Basques landing stages
 - Campsites for sea kayakers in the Saguenay Fjord
 - Baie Éternité landing stage

Ecosystem management and research

- Drafting and adoption of an ecosystem conservation plan and progressive implementation of the plan's recommendations
- Implementation of follow-through of the Marine Activities in the Saguenay-St. Lawrence Marine Park Regulations
- Drafting of the preliminary zoning proposal, in consultation with the main users of the marine park
- Monitoring of ice fishing in the fjord, in partnership with Fisheries and Oceans Canada and groups in the ice fishing community
- Natural sciences and social sciences research program (history and archaeology)
- Constant monitoring of resources (ex.: sport fishing, observation activities at sea, necropsy of carcasses of belugas, harbour seals, etc.)
- Management plan for underwater cultural resources
- Training program for captain-naturalists

Interpretation and education

- Implementation of interpretation tools and marine environment discovery activities by the marine park and regional groups (talks, guided hikes)
- Implementation of a school program
- Training of naturalists
- Design and installation of a variety of exhibits in the various interpretation centres in the co-ordination zone

Reception, marketing and signage

- Creation of the marine park's website: www.parcmarin.qc.ca
- Publication of annual information brochures and discovery guides in collaboration with regional tourist groups
- Development of a communication plan and marketing plan
- Creation of the Rosaire-Corbin Award that recognizes outstanding contributions of individuals or groups in the fields of education, public awareness and interpretation of the marine park's natural or cultural resources
- Collaboration on Québec Maritime promotional activities

Legislative and regulatory achievements

- Adoption of the first management plan and legislation creating the marine park
- Creation of a co-ordinating committee made up of 9 members: 4 municipal representatives, the Chief of the Innu community of Essipit, 1 representative of the scientific community, 1 representative of the academic and conservation communities, 1 representative from Parcs Québec and 1 from Parks Canada. The committee has met over 50 times and has set up 6 advisory committees that include over a hundred members from municipal, environmental and government groups, etc. The co-ordinating committee is a model of how a group of players can "take ownership" of a large territory.
- Adoption of the Marine Activities in the Saguenay-St. Lawrence Marine Park Regulations (the first regulations of its kind in Canada, it was adopted after many years of discussion with regional authorities and people in the community).
- Supervision of activities at sea and issuing permits to boat operators



Photo: Jacques Beauséjour, Parks Canada
Presentation at cap de Bon-Désir